

[The Esoteric Meaning in Ceremonies]

T193 The Inner Teachings 10th May 1949 St Mary Abbots Place, London

Invocation:

Great White Spirit, Eternal Light, Beloved: we receive blessing only from Thee; we praise Thee and glorify Thee. We yearn to know more of the eternal truths. May Thy wisdom, love and power manifest to each one of Thy children assembled here tonight.

Amen.

Will you try to attune yourselves to the power of the spirit and not remain on the earthly mental plane, for what we have to say tonight really concerns the soul and the spirit. So, to receive the full blessing of the message it is necessary for you to forget material cares and claims, and soar into inner and higher realms of spiritual truth. A special power is with us tonight, and as we proceed may it be that you will also become aware of an unusual outpouring of spiritual life force. We will speak later on of the reason for this outpouring.

To commence, we would like to deal with some of the problems which will confront you when you are treading the path towards full realisation. The purpose of your life (as we have often told you) is to gain soul-experience while in the physical body, and through this to attain an increasing degree of self-realisation. A question then arises, which has already been asked by some of you, 'Why is it that, if we have lived before in a high state of spiritual awareness, we have so far descended into matter that we no longer appear to be able to exercise spiritual faculties that were once ours to exercise in far-off days?' True, you may have learned much during previous incarnations in which you have been trained in the temple of the religious order of that day. You may have undergone certain rites and ceremonies. In this case you say, surely the memory of such wonderful spiritual experiences should remain—instead of which you seem to be completely cut off from them.

This question produces yet other questions, these being to find an interpretation of certain clairvoyant visions, dreams, or apparent memories that come to you after sleep or during meditation. To find an answer we have to remember that the purpose of life is self-realisation. This means that as you gain understanding of your own inner powers you are able to rise above the everyday normal consciousness and tap into what we call the akashic records. The present purpose of life, therefore, particularly in this Aquarian Age, is to bring through into this dense earthly consciousness some understanding of mysteries that your soul underwent in bygone days, in a past in which you were not so closely entangled in matter.

We will explain still further what we mean. You will find certain ceremonies are enacted in the religions of all time. Such ceremonies, in themselves (take for an instance the Christian rites and ceremonies), can mean little unless you have the key to their inner symbolism. For this reason many people discard them altogether in this mental age, thinking they mean nothing and do no good. This is erroneous. Spiritual rites can have an important bearing upon everyday life. Referring again to the Christian ceremonies—the festivals of Christmas, Easter and Whitsun—some people will tell you that the Christian church appropriated or borrowed such festivals from earlier religions. It matters little. What is important is that every one of these ceremonies holds a deep esoteric meaning and has a bearing upon the evolution of

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every soul. The purpose of your spiritual development and growth is to unfold a clearer understanding, a greater appreciation of their meaning and worth.

Those of you who are clairvoyant, or who have, shall we say, access to the inner planes may see thereon some very beautiful scenes. You may even be told by your guide of certain happenings once common in the religious life in the temples of Egypt, Atlantis or Greece. Since these things have a profound esoteric truth, your part is to learn from within yourself this meaning—in other words you have to learn to interpret with the language of the spirit, for these same ceremonies and truths of spiritual life cannot be put into words. This is where we ourselves are so handicapped when we come to talk to you. We cannot find language in which to clothe spiritual truths. We are forced to leave much unsaid, and can only trust that you will meditate upon and unravel something of the mystery for yourselves. This limitation is very clearly shown in the mystery schools, such as esoteric astrology, freemasonry,* the Roman church and others. The secrets of the spirit cannot be conveyed by word of mouth. Only when you meditate will you go to the higher planes where you will probably see great and lovely things and may even see enacted what appears to you to be the ceremony of the Holy Grail. Unless you have keen spiritual insight these symbols will mean little. No one can teach you. You have to learn how to interpret these symbols yourselves; in other words you will have to learn the language of the spirit. True, you can read many books about happenings in bygone days, and learn interesting things about Egypt, Greece or maybe Atlantis. What we want to impress upon you is that behind these ceremonies is a great spiritual and universal truth. You will have to learn this truth—you must learn it. It is not enough that you are told one or two details about a previous life or lives, interesting as they may be. You still want to learn how to interpret these happenings. You will find that such symbols all have a simple and yet profound spiritual meaning.

*[*White Eagle normally means ancient freemasonry when he uses this term.]*

Can we give you an illustration? At our last talk we dealt briefly with the meaning of the cross and the crucifixion. We found that crucifixion is something that concerns every soul and to a minor degree it comes into every single incarnation. Indeed, some believe the cross means the fact of incarnation, the coming down of the soul into matter and being pinned or nailed on the cross, or being limited by matter. Then we find that it is the soul's attitude to that experience that brings the reward, the fruits of its labour. When the Master Jesus was crucified he demonstrated some great truths. Before his crucifixion he demonstrated the importance of forgiveness to Judas, who had betrayed him. Jesus saw the heavy karma Judas bore. Jesus drew that karma to himself and forgave Judas. He also forgave his other persecutors, thus demonstrating the need always for the soul to forgive, forgive.

In your meditation you may possibly see a pool or lake with lotus flowers upon its surface. Since water symbolises the emotions, you learn by this scene that the emotions have to be stilled and controlled. If you look into still water you will see a clear reflection of yourself or anything else. If you look into water that is stirred up and troubled you will see a distorted reflection. By this simple illustration you learn the necessity of control and calmness of mind if you are going to see truth. Truth will only be revealed when there is stillness and peace.

[The Esoteric Meaning in Ceremonies]

T193 The Inner Teachings 10th May 1949 St Mary Abbots Place, London

We come now to the great ceremony known to certain schools of thought as the Wesak festival, which is at this moment being enacted.* We want you to come in thought—in imagination, if you like that word—to attend that vast gathering now taking place in the East, where spiritual power to an unusual degree is built up, partly by disciples and devotees of the great Lord Buddha—for the consciousness of his disciples and followers is raised, and their thoughts go out in worship and praise to their master. Other masters are there, some in bodies of flesh, but mostly in astral bodies because this ceremony is taking place not on the physical plane but on a level above the earth in the finer ethers. This finer ether is, shall we say, the meeting place between earth and heaven, the place of communion.

*[*The full moon in May 1949, celebrated as the Wesak festival, fell two days after this teaching was given, on May 12th.]*

It is the place of real communion. This is not something happening far away in the Himalayas which does not touch you. It has application to every one of you, not only in the power that is being distributed and rayed forth from that plane of life, but because it will bring to your consciousness an understanding or appreciation of spirit communion in its true nature. You will wonder what we mean by this. We have explained that on earth confusion may come because of lack of language to communicate with you clearly. On that higher plane there is no such lack, once you have learned spiritual language; it is on that plane that you can hold true communion and receive communication from those you love in the spirit life.

The foregoing has not only an individual implication but also a world implication, for humanity as a whole goes through initiations even as does the individual. While the individual soul moves forward slowly and by degrees—it is a very laboured journey, we grant you—at certain points on that journey it is able to take an initiation and the consciousness is expanded. Thereby a big step is taken on the path towards spiritual emancipation. This also happens to the planet, to the world, as a whole. This vast ceremony of which we are speaking produces a great effect not only upon collective humanity but also on the very earth itself for its material atoms are affected. You will say, ‘We do not see much change’. No, the change is very gradual but nevertheless is happening and so bringing about progress to humanity and to the earth itself. So you will see what an important thing this grand Wesak ceremony is.

We will liken this to a preparation for the next step. We ourselves can feel the outpouring of the power of the Buddha, the peace and the wisdom of this great Being, who came to the earth from another world—and we mean that exactly as we say it—from another world, from a heavenly planet, to bring this great spiritual power of peace and wisdom, thus quickening the consciousness of humanity to desire wisdom and peace, brotherhood and love towards all creatures, particularly the animal kingdom. This spiritual outpouring is a preparation for man* individually and for the whole earth to receive the next outpouring. We find the next outpouring of spiritual life and intelligence comes at the advent of the Lord Christ. Some may not agree with us when we say the Christ spirit is the great world saviour, and that only through the spirit of the Christ within man’s heart can he be saved from his own folly and

[The Esoteric Meaning in Ceremonies]

T193 The Inner Teachings 10th May 1949 St Mary Abbots Place, London

from his lower self. When this vast and powerful ceremony opens, the light streams forth and to a degree the whole vibrations of our world are raised. Some people are able to respond more fully than others, and are helped forward through their response. When people like yourselves become more fully aware of these spiritual happenings you can likewise respond so that the power of kundalini in your own being is stimulated and the power of the spirit is upon you. You have attained a degree of clairvoyance, of clear vision. You are able to respond to sound waves that are above the physical sound waves.

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

Realise that at this moment there is an outpouring of spiritual life force. Let yourselves receive these rays. This is the important thing. You may already know quite a lot with your brain, but unless you know it with you heart and can live it in spirit, all is but words lacking life, for 'the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life'*. What you have to do is to understand and feel with your spirit, to respond with your spirit to these spiritual waves. You will see, brethren, during your lifetime big changes in the collective thought of the world. Indeed you are seeing it already, and it proves a somewhat uncomfortable process, this birth into a new age. You may suffer as the Master Jesus appeared to suffer on the cross, for this is a world initiation in which the old is broken up. Some of you feel you are suspended midway between the old and the new, and have yet to find your feet. Perhaps what appears to you to be selfishness of the masses** is really the soul of the people crying out for brotherhood, for that soul knows that the next stage will be brotherhood. Doubtless it is very difficult, but try to look at it in the right way. As we told you, when the soul is incarnating it is pinned on the cross. Humanity is also pinned on this cross. You can help your brother here to see it as the process of evolution in the material and the spiritual sense. Do not yourselves fight against it. Go with it; strive to come into harmony and you will not suffer.

*[*2 Corinthians 3 : 6]*

*[**i.e., everyone except those who have been illumined or are consciously on the path to illumination.]*

This again was clearly demonstrated when Jesus was crucified. The story of the crucifixion told in the esoteric gospel* intimates that Jesus was not there when his body was crucified. He had already withdrawn from his body. He was seeing the whole thing from a distance, in clear and right perspective. This same thing is what mankind as a whole has to learn to do, and what you individually must learn with regard to your own problems and troubles. You must not allow yourselves to be drawn in, crucified and tortured. You must rise above trouble and see it rightly, dispassionately. As we were saying, in all probability most of you here, during your lifetime and even in perhaps a few months, will begin to recognise the outworking of this power. First must come this drawing together, this harmonisation. The outpouring of the Wesak festival will increase this feeling of love and brotherhood. A greater wisdom will inspire even the statesmen and spokesmen of the world, and in years to come better and better conditions will ensue. Humanity must look forward and must adjust itself and have confidence in the Supreme Director of these things. We must also remind you that the divine Intelligence works through His disciples and servers, those desirous not of their

[The Esoteric Meaning in Ceremonies]

T193 The Inner Teachings 10th May 1949 St Mary Abbots Place, London

own blessing and satisfaction but of the upliftment of all peoples, the bringing through on to this plane of that brighter life known to exist in the spirit world. It descends through *you*, and through all mankind it will be eventually established. Then the very atoms of the earth will be raised, and illumination and beautification will come to this physical planet.

*[*Presumably, the Gospel of John, but possibly, The Aquarian Gospel of Jesus the Christ, by Levi, first published in 1908.]*

Do not think in terms of time. It is impossible. Your scientists have not as yet found the truth of the age of this planet nor the processes through which it has passed. All is in the Great Plan of spiritualisation and the bringing forth of the self-realisation both of individual man and of the planet; then beyond are fields of exploration altogether beyond your wildest dreams. All we can tell you is good—good. Good is your goal—happiness and wonder in your at-one-ment with God, in your return to the home of your Father God.

Now, brethren, before we conclude, while we are in the vibration, be still and we will help you to receive the rays from that grand Wesak festival.... Amen. Amen. Amen.

Some people are puzzled when they are told that they were so much nicer (apparently) a few ages ago than they are today, and think they must have failed badly to be reduced to their present stage. They want to know what has gone wrong. We want you to realise that while you might have been better (from your present viewpoint) in a past incarnation a long while ago, you had not then the same spiritual power. You could not stand on your own feet then. You were still living in a world which had not yet descended to the depths. In your world of today you are getting more robust. Long ago you might have been willowy. Now you may not appear to be so nice but you are become tougher. So do not give up hope, do not lose heart, particularly when the world is going through this great initiation. There will be a good and wonderful outcome for humanity. So be hopeful and do your best. Feel kindly towards the world as well as towards yourself. Just see good increasing. If you stop to think of what the world was like a hundred years ago you will be compelled to admit that conditions are already much better. Remember what progress has been made, even right at material level. Instead of being cramped and bound by religious bigotry, you are now rising. All people are. They are showing it so clearly.

Someone is thinking, and I am catching their thought, 'But what about the refusal of the people to go to church? Are they not overthrowing religion?' We do not agree. The people have not really overthrown religion because religion is in their souls. They are only striving to find a more comprehensive religious life. In a different way it is there in their hearts, and they are refusing to be bound by bigotry, dogma or creed. They are searching for something greater which will satisfy their need.

Benediction:

Beloved, Eternal Love, we are filled to overflowing with Thy blessings. We humbly thank Thee. We acknowledge Thy wisdom and Thy love in all things, and Thy peace comes to rest in our hearts and we thank Thee.

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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:

Far-memories, soul growth, interpretation, discernment

