

The Bright New Year

A127 Sunday Address 2nd January 1944 St Mary Abbots Place, London New Year Service

The text of this address is as issued in the magazine Angelus after it was given, apart from correction of errors

Text: from *Angelus*, February 1944. In the printed version it is split into headings: the evidence of the address of 3 January 1943 is that if so, it was quite heavily edited by Brother Faithful. Part of the second and third paragraphs form a well-known saying in the book *PRAYER, MINDFULNESS AND INNER CHANGE*.

Context: although there is no date in the text, it is reasonable to believe that this is the New Year address from the year in which it was published, and according to the December 1943 *Angelus*, the Lodge was to reopen on Sunday 2 January 1944. It seems likely from the first paragraph that the address was preceded by the Epiphany hymn, 'As with gladness men of old | Did the guiding star behold'. There is a reference to New Year's Day at the very end.

General Notes: overall, the underlying theme of this teaching is the symbol of the six-pointed Star, although it is also a teaching about the Aquarian Age. There is an interesting 'take' on the 'years of fire' in connection with teachers from Mars who also have a purifying effect. From the lines that begin 'What is the star?' there is a passage that has been reprinted many times, for instance in the book *PRAYER, MINDFULNESS AND INNER CHANGE*.

There is an interesting account of a 'young airman' for whom flowers were given on this occasion. The reference here may connect with the address of 6 June the previous year (1943) and more recently with a short letter published in the March 1944 issue of *Angelus*, p. 62, and the article that follows: 'The Great Adventure' (a 'letter from the spirit world' by GEC). Who the airman was is uncertain, but there is another possible connection: the second of GEC's 'Two Stories of the Life Beyond' in *Angelus*, June 1943, where a lost airman, shot down over the North Sea, is given the name 'Paul'. In YGH's bound copy for 1942-43, her own handwriting identifies this as 'Paul Furber', and she has written underneath, 'This story was afterwards confirmed to his mother from another, independent, source'. Two early brothers of the Lodge had the surname Furber, but seem to have resigned before the war, so they may not be the parents of Paul.

References: the poet who said 'Hope springs eternal in the human breast' was Alexander Pope, in 'An Essay on Man'.

White Eagle's Address:

Beloved brethren, we stand on the edge of a new life. We think thus at the beginning of every year – and each year it is true. There is always freshness and hope in the future. You have just been singing of the gladness of the Wise Men of old when they beheld the Star which guided them to that which they sought.

Now, this story contains a profound and ancient truth. Some may think that the story was first told at the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, but the mystic tells us that the Star is as old as creation. What is the Star? we could never define it if we talked the whole length of an incarnation, but to sum up in a very few words we would say that the star is *God's plan for man*. It doesn't sound very helpful does it? there may be some present who think: Oh that is a very obvious thing to say; we know all about it already.

The Star is God's plan for the emancipation of man, for the salvation of man, but its meaning is far deeper and grander than this. It is a symbol of creation and of man's entire existence. It

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is the symbol of man's life – not for threescore years and ten, but for millions and millions of years: man's life through countless ages. In the six-pointed Star with the seventh point in its centre we behold the history of creation and God's plan for man's life, not merely from the beginning to the end of incarnation but through eternity. Eternity is something which you find impossible to understand. Even if you take the symbol of the circle you still find it impossible. Eternal life is something infinitely grander, infinitely more beautiful than man has grasped, because one has to comprehend past, present and future as being *all here and now*. This is a profound secret of life. Sometimes in deep meditation the soul is able to touch that depth and that height of comprehension. The soul recognises eternity perhaps in a flash and in that flash lives through eternal life, through countless ages; but as soon as the soul returns to the confines of the physical brain and the limitations of material life, understanding of eternity falls away and it is bound again in prison, suffering the sorrows and anguish of mortal life. It is only when it can escape from this bondage that it can touch the truth of life and enter into the very centre of the Star.

The Star

What do we mean by saying that the star is the symbol of creation and of God's plan for man? We read into this symbol of the Star which led the Wise Men and which leads all wise men to the birthplace of truth – we see in this the ages advancing and receding and we see the continual involution and evolution of life. We see the ages fulfilling their purpose and through each age we see the soul of man uplifted and cast down. We see the soul struggling through the darkness of ignorance, fear and selfishness. At the end of the age we see that the soul has glimpsed some of the glory of the heavens, the glory of God's plan. That glory is absorbed into the depths of the soul, is covered up again; and the soul enters once more upon the path of the particular age which is to bring to it certain lessons, certain understanding of the mighty grandeur and glory of its Creator.

Simple Folk

Most of you here – all of us indeed – are very simple men and women; and although we are capable at times of touching heights and looking into the heavens, we still have to follow the path designed for us by the great Architect of the Universe. We have to follow this path in a simple round of sleeping and waking, rest and work, death and life, life and death. We have to undergo the sorrows of physical life. All that many people can understand, or want to understand, is how to get on with life with its many claims each day, and this is really what we come back from the world the world of spirit to talk to you about.

We have told you before that we know quite well what goes on in your mind and what you sometimes voice because we hear you. We hear you speak, but not quite as you hear each other speak; we can at times hear speech which goes on in the heart. We hear it through the vibration of thought and we know that you think sometimes: 'Oh yes, very nice for the spirit people, they are free from all these difficulties of earth life. It does not matter to them. They can say all these things – they have not got a physical body'.

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Never think thus, because it is untrue. It is only half a truth. While we are not always functioning in the physical body as you are, we are accustomed to its limitations and we have had many incarnations which have taught the soul lessons. Because we can remember these lessons now, in our present state of life, we come back again and yet again with the hope of helping you in your everyday life. This is what always happens throughout the ages and this is part of God's divine plan for the assistance, for the guidance and for the help of man during his life in a physical body. There have always been messengers.

Messengers from Mars

We are going to say a startling thing. The messengers which come to mankind are not limited to souls of this earth life only. Messengers from other planets descend to your earth and teach mankind. You do not recognise these messengers, and if we named any particular messenger you would be astounded – indeed we doubt if you would believe our words. Nevertheless I tell you that there are men and women who have lived and taught on this earth plane whose soul life has not been limited to the earth. They are messengers from other planets and in each age (which is roughly two thousand years) such messengers come to the earth from other planets to bring to mankind a definite message or lesson. In your present age – although you don't perhaps understand what is happening – you are absorbing the lesson of Fire. You are under the yoke of certain influences from the planet Mars and at the present time there is much suffering. You have been experiencing what the Sages call 'the years of fire'. Now fire is destructive, but also fire is purifying, fire brings warmth. Fire is a vital and important contribution to eternal life. Whilst messengers from the planet Mars have been bringing to mankind this consuming fire of war, they have at the same time been purifying men's souls and causing stimulation of fresh life upon the earth, fresh life in man, clearer vision, purer outlook and a desire for reconstruction after destruction of outworn ways and methods.

A New Age

We stand now not only at the beginning of a new year, but upon the very edge of a new age: the new age which will bring an entirely new life upon the earth. The murmurings of this new life you have heard long before the war came like a mighty fire, blown by a terrifying wind which drove all before it, which scorched and burned, destroyed and yet purified the very face of the earth. You are always looking forward to something good. What is it the poet said? 'Hope springs eternal in the human breast.' Of course, because God intends that it should. Man must always be hopeful, always expecting something new, something better, something more beautiful. There must always be this driving force, this divine fire in man which urges him upward and onward.

During the past twenty years you have wondered at the progress made in all forms of aerial transit and communication. But even this is not new. Don't run away with the idea that the twentieth century is the first to witness the flying machine. Aerial transit was known and used upon the earth many, many hundreds of thousands of years ago. We have said many times

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that man has not yet discovered the age of the earth and we very much doubt if man *as man* will ever come to know it. Brilliant brains strive to calculate the age of the earth, but they have not yet succeeded and we wonder if they ever will succeed; because, as we said at the beginning of our talk, eternity is impossible to estimate, to understand. No mortal man can know the secrets, the mysteries of the universe. He can make guesses and speculate, but the mortal mind is incapable of grasping the meaning of eternal life or the meaning of time or space.

You are comparatively young – just a family of youngsters – and you have before you a glorious path of eternal unfoldment, eternal revelation, eternal happiness: not in some vague shadowy place beyond the clouds, but life in a body, in a form and amidst all the beauties of God's world, God's Creation.

It would help you, my brethren, to ponder upon this and try to reach the placid state of mind which brings a certain comprehension of the beauty of God and the beauty of the life through which God has brought you so far – life which goes on growing and evolving and becoming more beautiful, a life in which you are not torn from those you love but which continues eternally in harmonious company with those whom you love and will still love through the ages.

When the wireless was introduced – not for the first time – remember it was brought through again because earth's humanity had arrived at the time for this knowledge to be unfolded. It came as a symbol or a signal of the age which was due: the age of man's spiritual understanding. A century ago if you had said that you would be listening to a voice coming across the world from Australia by just turning a little knob on a box by your fireside, people would have said, 'Stuff and nonsense! that is impossible!' They would not have believed. That demonstrates to us that nothing can be regarded as impossible and there are many more wonderful things coming to mankind in the immediate future. It won't be a matter of having to go home to turn your little knob to listen to what is going on in the rest of the world. You will be able to sit on top of a mountain all alone, or in the middle of a field and tune in to whatever station you wish.

As Man Evolves

As man evolves to higher levels and is able to contact and receive higher vibrations, he will be able to tap wonderful mysteries, wonderful knowledge. We cannot tell you of these things which await you. You must wait and experience them for yourselves. Else you would only be like great-grandfather who could not believe in the wireless. We can say that in the coming age men and women will open their inner consciousness and will be able to receive communication quite naturally and simply from the world beyond.

The Unknown Airman

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My friends, we would draw your attention to the beautiful lilies on the altar. Those lilies are an expression of love to a young airman who laid down his physical body in what was presumably an accident. It was no accident really. The truth is that his work in a physical body for this particular incarnation was over, and the method which is called an accident was used so that he should be free to work with the great White Army and the White Brotherhood in the higher spheres of life. We feel it so appropriate that on this New Year's service we should have those lilies to remind us of the wonderful love of God, which holds the Plan for all the good and all the happiness of mankind. The age of Aquarius, the Age of the Air, is expressed by those lilies given in love to our younger brother, who has found a greater happiness than he ever knew whilst in a physical body.

After the consuming of Mars there come to the earth the holy fires of love. Love is a divine fire which is constructive, and which brings to man's life all the joy and happiness that he can understand and absorb. This young airman is a symbol today – the unknown airman, shall we call him? He comes not alone, but with thousands of his companions. He comes back to all those on earth who are attuned by their own natural wireless receivers: he comes back with a message of joy, to point the way to the new age and to the fulfilment of God's plan, which is written in the Star which the Wise Men saw in the heavens, for heaven is where you see the stars, not Earth. Those men and women who look up into the heavens will see the Star of Bethlehem, the Star of Christ, the symbol of all the God-life means to man. That Star will lead them into the ways of service, of goodwill, of kindness, of brotherhood; it will lead them to receive greater opportunities; and as they receive these opportunities they will see that their brothers on earth are given beauty materially, mentally and spiritually.

This is the message for New Year's day: look up, not down. Behold the Star, the symbol of God and man. All those in the spirit who have been released from their physical body during youth will work through mankind to inspire and to establish on the earth the age of brotherhood and peace.

May the peace which is so near bring to you all a sense of responsibility which God places upon you, responsibility to see that every detail of your life, physical, material and spiritual, is well and truly executed to the glory of God and to the happiness of all your friends. God bless you and God will bring you all, according to your own reception, happiness, tranquillity, peace.

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:

Epiphany, follow the star, star symbol, wisdom, enlightenment, path of the soul, spiritual contact, intuition, aliens, extra-terrestrials, thought projection, positivity, hearing our thoughts