

The City without Stain

A102 Sunday Address 22nd March 1942 St Mary Abbots Place, London Anniversary 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, October 1944.

Context: the level of bombing, particularly by V1 and V2 rockets, in the later part of 1944 forced the cessation of public services from mid-July through to some time in September (the actual dates are not known). No September address exists and there probably was none, and for the October *Angelus* the editor looked back for an unpublished one from earlier. This is the address that appears in that issue. It refers in the seventh paragraph to the anniversary of the Lodge, which might lead us to February 1944, except that White Eagle clearly states that he is speaking 'on the first day of the spring Equinox'. That means that the likeliest date is 22 March 1942, the first anniversary not of the founding of the Lodge but of the new Lodge at St Mary Abbots Place. A hymn is referred to, 'Holy Spirit, truth divine', by Samuel Longfellow (1819-92), brother of the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and the reading, apparently, was from Revelation chapter 21 ('And I saw a new heaven and a new earth').

General Notes: the evocation of the New Jerusalem in wartime is itself a remarkable 'triumph of hope'; while to publish the address in October 1944, even though the Normandy landings in June inspired hope, is also evidence of the strength of spirit within the Lodge.

References: the title looks at Revelation 21, but is more directly taken from John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*. 'Where there is no vision, the people perish' is from Proverbs, 29 : 18. The 'reference in the Book' to man becoming son and angel, mentioned in the eleventh paragraph, is probably to Revelation 21 : 7: 'He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son' – if so, it was probably part of the reading the congregation heard. For the parting of the Red Sea, see Exodus 14 : 21. For the Chinese symbol of the golden flower see, especially, Richard Wilhelm's famous translation of the Chinese treatise, *THE SECRET OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER*, which was the current translation when this address was given and which was held in the London Lodge Library.

White Eagle's Address:

The first line of the hymn you have been singing, 'Holy Spirit, truth divine, dwell within this soul of mine', voices the conscious or unconscious prayer and aspiration of every soul. All souls desire truth, knowledge and wisdom. All souls desire happiness and joy; all souls yearn in their innermost for God.

Many of you must suffer, we are sure, under the terrible confusion which besets mortal life; for the soul is enchained in an earthly existence and sometimes there seems no reason for the suffering of mankind, and no hope. The mists fall so heavily that all seems plunged into night. Men ask, 'How will it all end?'

We have asked that the truth may dawn upon our souls; we have prayed for vision. Surely, my friends, there is no greater need amongst man today than for vision of God? We do not separate God from His creation, man and all that comprises the earthly life. Men need vision, the nations need vision, for 'where there is no vision the people perish'.

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So we pray for, we seek truth, and we turn to the twenty-first chapter of Revelation, and read an account of the New Jerusalem, of the Golden City, a vision glorious. Perhaps you have grown so accustomed to this particular reading that it may have lost its meaning. Or you may have failed to grasp the substance, and so dismiss this description of what John saw when he was raised in consciousness to the kingdom of God.

In days gone by the simple Christian accepted the letter of his Bible and failed to catch the spirit and power behind the letter. Consequently he thought of the Holy City either as some place above the clouds to which all good people would go after death, or else thought of it as a blest condition or state which could dawn when the Golden Age would be established by the goodness of God on this earth. Later neither of these two pictures satisfied the reason or intellect of man, with the result that they have become discarded, or else thought of as something which cannot be understood by man in his present state of life. Others consider these pearly gates and golden streets to be merely symbolic.

Science has latterly dispelled all this imagery. Then psychic science came along and proved that when man passed away from his body he did not find himself in a city with jewelled gates of pearl; but that man's spirit after death is largely unchanged - the spirits tell us that they live simply in a life very similar to their earth life. 'So it would seem all nonsense to talk about the Golden City', men decide. Thus they lose the vision of truth.

Now, as this is an anniversary of the Lodge of White Eagle, we are desirous of re-stating those aims for which the White Eagle Lodge is working. For even here as in the outer world, where things are chaotic, man does not understand that which besets him. But God understands; the great White Spirit, the great Father-Mother God, has a divine Plan and can see whither humanity is bound; and sends to mankind streams of love and power and wisdom and light – and always has done.

Today is the first day of the spring Equinox; and there pours forth upon the earth a baptism of power and spiritual sunlight, of life-force, which stimulates not only the life within mother earth, causing growth to take place from her womb, but also a spiritual power which floods mankind. While many do not understand this, they still register a certain joy from hearing the birds sing and seeing the flowers blossom and from all the beauty of spring. They want to cry out, 'Oh, it is good to be alive! What a lovely spring day!'

Go one step further: not only be happy because of the coming spring, but realise its deeper meaning. Realise that with the spring Equinox, there is descending a blazing light, a glorious power and a spiritual inspiration. This should help you raise your consciousness to heavenly planes, to grow nearer to that Golden City.

Where is this City to be found? Is it something external, or is it something within man himself? It is both, my friends. But first it is deep within you all. And what is within has eventually to become externalised, or expressed outside man. Do you know that when a soul passes away after death, the condition in which it finds itself is exactly the condition in which

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it habitually lived while in the physical body? Its surroundings are those of its own thought, its own aspiration, externalised. With whatever a man or woman fills his or her thoughts on earth, he will surround himself in the life beyond. Even your homes will be externalised – libraries, beloved pictures, beloved gardens, favourite places of holiday – all that which has delighted the soul will be exactly what it will find when it lives in the world of spirit.

Man grows as a child grows to manhood's estate, and afterwards he continues to grow from man's estate to angelic estate. There is a reference in the Book which says that man, if he overcometh all things shall become God's son and angel. There are planes of life undreamed of by you who are imprisoned in earthiness. But this does not mean that the comprehension of these glories in the heavens cannot be realised whilst still living in the physical body. Because it is obvious from the reading that when a soul advances through aspiration, contemplation, mediation and prayer, that soul is being prepared for initiation into the Golden City, which has twelve foundations – the twelve foundations being the twelve virtues of the soul, the essential virtues upon which to build Jerusalem within the soul. The twelve gates, the twelve Tribes, we interpret to mean the twelve perfected types of men and woman, the twelve perfect Signs of the Zodiac; and the gates North, South, East and West are Earth, Air, Fire and Water – the elements with which man builds the perfect City.

There is another important revelation – John says there is no Sea in the new heaven and the new earth. We interpret this to mean that there is no division, no dividing line between earth and heaven; that in this new City, this new state of life to which man is advancing, will be a perfect interpenetration of all life, both heavenly and earthly. We see in this perfect balance, expressed by the symbol of the six-pointed Star. Both heaven and earth will interpenetrate, as all seers know. For when the seer sees a vision, when he walks in the golden streets of the golden city, he knows that it does not incapacitate him for his daily work, but gives a more perfect body and mind, a more perfect spiritual life, lived both on earth and in heaven.

We want you to live that you may realise this vision – this is your object. Indeed, it can be attained in one human life. We speak truth. It is not a condition which awaits you thousands upon thousands of years hence, but a state which can be attained in one incarnation.

With reference again to this dividing line between sea and land: we get the same symbol in the story of the Red Sea, when the Israelites fled from Egypt, the land of the flesh, of the body; and the sea divided – a passage led from the land of Egypt to the promised land of the spirit.

This division which the sea symbolises must be done away with. It will be overcome and there will be a life. This city of the New Jerusalem is paralleled by the Chinese teaching of the golden flower. The golden city and the golden flower stand for the centre of the heart, that innermost state (which all men can reach) of divine illumination, which comes to man through aspiration and true meditation. The New Jerusalem is built upon the foundations of the twelve virtues of life. When the angel takes the measuring rod of one hundred and forty-four cubits and finds the perfect cube, the perfect square, this means that the soul of

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man perfected is represented by the perfect square: and the number of the perfect man is Nine – represented by the digits of the number 144 added together.

The New Jerusalem is the soul made perfect, or man made perfect. This, my friends, is the goal of all seekers after truth and all the workers and the brothers both in and out of the body who are associated with or initiated into the White Eagle Lodge. This, then, is the aim of those who worship here.

Is this a vision worth striving after, worth living for? Yes, indeed. All confusion, all sickness of body and mind, all the inconvenience and the sorrows and the separation of this present time on earth, all fall away when this true vision is established in the heart, in the mind, in the soul of a man or woman. Nothing matters, all is passing except ... God our Creator; and the place He has prepared for all His creatures in the New Jerusalem.

When Jesus wept over Jerusalem, He wept not over a few stones in Palestine, but over the sorrowful soul of man.

So, we leave you with thanksgiving to our Creator for the teachers, the saints and all white Brethren of all ages who have been God's messengers to convey this truth to the earth through the ages.

And may divine peace enfold you all; may divine truth be uncovered, deep though it may lie within your consciousness. May you see this vision of the New Jerusalem that lieth within your innermost; and then may your vision be externalised on earth and in all the planes.

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:

pain, apocalypse, St John, Pilgrim's Progress, new life, life after death, spirit world, heaven world, numerology, paradise