

# The Meaning of Miracles

A173 Sunday Address 2nd March 1947 St Mary Abbots Place, London Sunday 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, May 1947*

*Context:* the date is conjectural, and the publication in the magazine is two months on from when the address was supposedly given, but the April issue carried the Anniversary address from 23 February and the March issue the early February address, from the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the month. There is a reference to the previous address speaking of love; this was indeed a major topic of the address on 23 February, so that this is the clinching piece of evidence. The third and fourth sentences would seem to imply that there was a hymn beforehand, 'Holy Spirit, dwell with me'. There is a hymn by Thomas T. Lynch, 1818-71, beginning 'Gracious Spirit, dwell with me' but if so it dropped out of Lodge use some time after. Possibly it was the much more familiar 'O Holy Spirit God, All loveliness is Thine' by Percy Dearmer (1867-1936).

*General Notes:* not for the first time in an address, White Eagle tackles the theme of miracles. For further light on Jesus' miracles, for instance, see the address of 23 May 1935. White Eagle ends inspiringly by describing a miracle his audience, in the Isle of Britain, could themselves bring about. In the final paragraph he described angels reaching to man like a musician plucking the strings of a harp and bringing forth great music. It could be a suitable description of what White Eagle himself tries to do in his Addresses.

*References:* White Eagle says he has already in an Inner Teaching explained about the four great initiations of Earth, Air, Fire and Water. This teaching has since been collected into the book now called INITIATIONS ON THE PATH OF THE SOUL, the whole based on a series of Inner Teachings under the title 'The Path of the Soul' that began in September 1945. For 'We were speaking last about love' see above, 'Context'. 'Greater things shall ye do' is John 14 : 12. There is probably a hidden reference near the end to John of Gaunt's famous speech in Shakespeare's *Richard II*, when White Eagle refers to 'this little island of yours, this jewel'. The Shakespeare line is 'This precious stone, set in the silver sea'. When White Eagle talks of the last seven years as a miracle, he must be referring to the endurance of Britain during the second world war, and the final victory of the Allies.

## White Eagle's Address:

As we have often remarked, the word 'holy' means healthy. The holy spirit is a healthy, a perfect spirit, the spirit of all goodness, of all beauty and truth. 'Holy Spirit, dwell with me.' When you sing these words you are praying that you may be accompanied all your life by this holy, healthy spirit. Some people have an idea that to be holy means to separate oneself from mankind, to live secluded from ordinary life. This is not so. He who is truly holy is natural and rich in human sympathies and understanding, and lives in brotherhood with the rest of mankind.

However, our real subject is miracles. You read of the miracles recounted in the four gospels, which were wrought by the power of the Holy Spirit, the power of the Christ spirit, in and through the Master Jesus. There is a tendency in these days to explain away or, shall we say, to give an intellectual interpretation of these miraculous happenings. This, my brethren, is a grave error. For what is a miracle? A miracle is a supernatural happening. This means that a miracle is something beyond natural or ordinary power to produce, a happening which undoubtedly has something to do with the spirit of the receiver of the miracle. For before a

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miracle can take place two people are necessary – the one who performs and the one who receives the blessing of the miracle. For many people like what is called ‘sensational’ happenings, or any demonstration of a power which they do not understand. They say, ‘How remarkable!’ and afterwards are none the better for the demonstration. This is why a soul must be spiritually evolved before it can ‘receive’ the blessing from a miracle.

We are not dealing tonight with any extraordinary happenings, but with manifestations of a spiritual power which comes into the heart and the soul of many a man or woman at some crucial moment. When that power operates, the life of the individual is transformed. Possibly in your world today the intellect has taken such a strong hold that most people do not give credence to miracles or to this spiritual conversion which in the old days was noted amongst men. The intellect seems as though it demands a reasonable explanation for everything, and if the intellect is not satisfied it dismisses any happening as being imaginary, making no allowance for that superior state experienced by some men, in which spiritual manifestations come to the soul.

We were speaking last about love. We emphasised that love was the manifestation in the soul of the light of God. The manifestation of love in the life, in the soul of man, brings about what is called a miracle. Miracles do not take place through the power of the human will. Miracles take place through inflow of the Holy Spirit. Surely you have had such miracles happen to you personally – extraordinary things which bring about a change of outlook, a change of spirit, a change of your whole life? One day the heavens may have seemed as brass, and then, as a flash of lightning traverses the sky, the whole outlook, spiritual and material, will change. There is no accounting for this. It just *is*. A few hours previously you had been unhappy and perhaps ill with all your affairs in confusion, and maybe had been praying to God, having realised that in your extremity you had only one resort – your Creator, the Source of your life – therefore in humility you had bowed down to that all-wise and loving God.

Although perhaps nothing had been done by you on the worldly plane to alter your condition, you had truly surrendered yourself. Then blessing flooded your being. You felt as if sunlight had bathed you. Life had become quite different. Afterwards one material obstacle after another which had lain in your path was smoothed away miraculously. What had caused such a miracle to happen? We will tell you. You have surrendered your *self-will*. You have been reduced by sorrow and anxiety to a state of spiritual humility, having thus opened the way for the power which performs miracles. In other words you have unconsciously said, ‘Of myself I can do nothing. God help me!’ Then God helped you. If you try to recount your experience to convince other people of your miracle, you can find no words to explain the experience through which you have passed.

We have chosen this particular example of a miracle because it is not uncommon, and one that you can understand. When in the state of mind that surrenders itself to the holy or to the healthy or the perfect spirit, which is the Christ, a chemical change takes place in your body. Is it not a medical fact that emotion can change the state of the bloodstream? This, my brethren, is when by surrender of yourself to the Godhead, you recognise that your last resort

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is your Creator. Then the creative power of the universe is unleashed. It floods your body and your soul; your mind is cleansed. The dark curtain which hung between you and the truth is removed. The light, the creative power, has so flooded your mind, your soul and your body that you are renewed in health. A miracle has happened; something which is supernatural. The inflow of this divine power is superior to the physical power which you know, and affects not only the body but the outer conditions of the material life. We are not telling you things which concern only a few selected people. We are speaking of that which has happened to man all through the ages.

Let us consider again the miracles of Jesus. There is an esoteric interpretation of every one; we mean by this that each miracle can be described as a soul-experience; each is an experience undergone by the soul in the course of spiritual unfoldment. We have already in an Inner Teaching explained about the four major initiations through which every soul has to pass during its cycle of rebirths on the physical plane – the Water, the Air, Fire and Earth – and every one of the miracles in the Gospels is a description of one or the other of the four initiations. So the miracle not only takes place through physical matter but also within the soul. Every miracle means an initiation of either a lesser or a major degree. Every time there comes a demonstration of the superior spiritual force some man or woman is changed by an unfoldment of the soul, a strengthening of the character, a disciplining of the whole nature. You see what a thing of wonder is a miracle? Because it brings this change in the soul it brings what old-fashioned people would call conversion or change of heart.

My brethren, this is what is needed by all the world – conversion – this miracle which can change the heart. But what has this to do with you personally? How can *you* help the rest of the world? Can you perform miracles as did the master Jesus? Of course not. Nevertheless did he not say, 'these things and greater things than these shall ye do', thereby telling his disciples that it was not their own power but the power of God flowing through them which performed the miracles. Therefore as a disciple it is in your hands to perform miracles in your world today; unless you resign yourselves, unless you surrender yourselves to this superior power, you cannot help the world; you cannot perform miracles; you cannot even be the recipient of miracles in your own life.

Do you realise that this little island of yours, this jewel, is a centre of great spiritual power? How great you do not know, but we are speaking from the spirit life, and we say that in this island of yours is a vast and unknown power. We are going to say that the power of the spiritual sun is imprisoned here. It is for you by your aspiration and endeavour in everyday life to give forth love and light to the world, and thus release this ancient light. This will be the miracle which lies in your power to perform. We have a message: Great things can happen and we are sure they will happen – great things which will emanate from this island and from the people. How ancient is your spiritual heritage you do not know. You cannot understand even if we try to tell you. Great miracles can and will happen. Did you not have a miraculous demonstration during the past seven years? Keep these happenings in mind and remember that with *you* individually lies power to bring about such happenings again.

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We would have you be still, my brethren, and try to respond to the presence of the angelic ones. They are all around. With great power and love they wait for you to open your souls, for they are the servants of the almighty God. They draw very close and they will serve you, touching your soul as a musician plucks the strings of a harp, causing great music to issue forth from your heart. This is the power which will change your life, and can change the life of all mankind. Oh, we are unable, we cannot speak the language which you will understand, but we come to *you* in all fervour and sincerity to bring you this message of hope, to give this divine truth. Miracles are happening every moment and to every soul which can and will surrender to the all-wise and almighty power of God. The time is at hand when all barriers will be swept aside for those who will respond to the power of the spirit, to the power of love; for it is *this* power which changes the very physical atoms of the earth. God, the Great White Spirit, leads you and will bless 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:*

*surrender, seclusion*

