

Christmas

A211 Sunday Address 18th December 1949 St Mary Abbots Place, London
Christmas Carol Service

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, December 1950

Context: as with the previous address, for Remembrance, it has been assumed that the practice held of printing festival addresses a year later to keep the magazine topical. As usual for a Christmas service, the carols, many of them sung surely by the Lodge choir, occupied much of the service and the address is brief. Towards the end of the teaching the reading in the service is described, which seems to have allowed a comparison between the Mosaic law and promise with that brought by Jesus. Maybe this implies Isaiah, but it is also possible that it is the moment described in Luke after the visitation of the shepherds and the purification of Mary: the presentation of Jesus in the Temple 'according to the laws of Moses'.

General Notes: White Eagle is eloquent about the creative effect of the carols being sung. He also elucidates the symbolic meaning of wise men and shepherds.

References: for the possible location of the reading in Luke's gospel, see chapter 2 verses 22-35. It follows the story of the shepherds (2 : 8-19).

White Eagle's Address:

Brethren, we come on a note of peace and quietude, because it is only on this vibration that the human soul can hear the angel's message.

We have not long to talk tonight. We have been with you not only listening to the carols, but have been watching the effects of music itself. Whilst all hearts and minds are concentrated upon the carols which tell of the coming of the Christ-child, there was built in your midst a cradle, shaped in the form of a human heart; within this cradle came a small light, which gradually grew; then a perfect babe lay in the cradle; and all present, both mortal and spiritual beings, received a gentle outpouring of love and truth from this Christ-child.

Brethren, you are accustomed to thinking of Christmas as a time for giving greetings and exchanging presents; or for holding convivial gatherings and perhaps eating and drinking more than usual. We do not say that this is wrong. We like to see you enjoying all that the five senses which God has given to you can provide. But we always suggest balance, a steady middle way in the things of the flesh; and would remind you all that at Christmas there comes a spiritual baptism upon all people.

The Christmas story has also a heavenly interpretation, together with an astrological meaning, for the stories which you read about this birth of the Christ (or the birth of the Sun) have their origin in astronomy or astrology – whichever you like to call it. This is a symbolic story founded upon the coming of the Sun, its passing through the sign of Virgo, the virgin, into the sign of Scorpio and then Capricorn – the coming forth from the Virgin of the tiny child – the Sun. Behind this symbolic story is a great spiritual force, a great spiritual power which descends through the heavens at the beginning of every age of man.

At the beginning of the Piscean age this happening was noted by wise men whom you call sages. They scanned the heavens and read from the stars and constellations that this great spiritual power, this new life was coming to the earth. As the story goes, we are told that shepherds were watching their flocks by night; the shepherds being symbolical of initiates, or

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those who have their spiritual senses quickened to the spiritual power, and so because shepherds of men, by virtue of their spiritual unfoldment. By the light of the star – which is the same star which shines today – the shepherds were guided to the birthplace of the Child within a stable; which again, interpreted, is symbolic of one of the constellations in the heavens. Within this lovely stable they come upon the Christ-child. Again interpreted, the stable represents a cave, and this cave is the human heart. In other words, the Light which descended from the heavens found an entrance, a birthplace in the stable – the cave – of the human heart.

We do not say that Jesus Christ was not an historical figure, for the Master Jesus came into the world as the vehicle or channel to provide the body or the human personality of the Son of God. The third aspect of the Logos came, the Light came and shone in the darkness of flesh; and flesh, materiality, comprehended it not. But the wise men understood. Because of this the shepherds, the initiates who followed the Star, the one true light of humanity, found the birthplace of the Holy Child.

So it is today, beloved brethren: the shepherds, the initiates, the sages, the wise men, can still discover the holy birthplace. For they know that this birth of the Christ Light can only take place in a very humble, gentle heart.

You have listened to the reading. Moses gave the law, but the Lord Jesus, the Christ, gave to the human heart grace, which word means love and truth. The law of Moses represents the mind and the body; the law of Christ is the law of the gentle, pure heart.

At this Christmastide we ask you to remember that the heavens are filled with a shining, angelic throng. The heavens can open for you if you look to the Star, to the Light of Christ; and you can be caught up in an ecstasy of joy unknown to the mind or body. On Christmas morn there is a special heavenly outpouring of this light; for as the physical, the material sun, commences its upward climb, so all those who can glimpse this heavenly mystery can also be caught up by this spiritual sun, and receive the Christ Mass.

Oh may you be among the blessed at this time! Open yourselves to receive the spiritual food. Pay not too much attention to the outward aspect of Christmas, although this is a demonstration, human, simple, and homely, of human happiness. May you also be numbered amongst the shepherds and the wise men who go silently apart to pray and so receive a supreme blessing. May all present celebrate the Christ Mass in the heavenly consciousness, and thus be filled with happiness and peace; an essence of joy which no worldly gift, no material pleasures or advancement can give you, and no material adversity take away.

Oh! There are many behind us this night who send you their love and wishes for a very happy Christ Mass! So may it be!

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:

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*Enter the silence, angelic vibration, Christ-Mass, the vibration of carols, spiritual
outpouring, astrological symbolism of Christ-Mass, ecstasy*

