

## Sowing and reaping: this is man's life

A334 Sunday Address 9th October 1960 New Lands, Liss Fifteenth Anniversary and Harvest Thanksgiving Service

*Text:* a typescript, a top copy probably by AMI. It has been worked over by IC and (to a lesser extent) by YGH, presumably for *Stella Polaris*, but does not seem ever to have been used. IC has given it a title, almost illegible: 'The Crown of Life', probably, since this phrase is used in the penultimate paragraph.

*Context:* there is just a hint in this address that White Eagle had a number of younger listeners in the audience; perhaps there was a visitation of 'Eaglets' from London, maybe as a working party. White Eagle also makes the occasion a celebration of the life of Francis of Assisi, whose 'day' was five days previous to this. It is probably the earliest address in which the day of St Francis was noted, but White Eagle seems impressed with the connection, for he refers to Francis again in his Remembrance address on 13 November. There is a communion, but no indication of what were the hymns or the reading.

*General Notes:* the anniversary celebrated is, of course, that of New Lands, which was dedicated on 29 September 1945 – not of the whole Lodge. Despite the harvest occasion, the main burden of the first part of the address is the need to learn from our experience, to let it lift us in understanding. One remembers White Eagle's saying, 'Spirituality is really learned lessons' – or as here: 'True religion is the spiritual unfoldment [or] development of man'. White Eagle explains karma in a very simple way. Then he sums up. 'Sowing and reaping. This is man's life. And the harvest can come whilst you are still in your physical life.' The communion is beautiful, but quite mixed in with more personal remarks to the listeners.

*References:* the remark about the stones that cut our feet is one that occurs not infrequently in White Eagle's teaching; it is not clear which other teacher might have said the same thing. 'Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard' if 1 Corinthians 2 : 9. The letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life' is 2 Corinthians 4 : 6.

### White Eagle's Address:

Beloved children of earth, we come with great joy to share with you the festival of thanksgiving, not only for the fruits of the earth but also for the spiritual gifts which God has bestowed upon humanity. Now when you think of the harvest you naturally think of ploughing and digging the soil, and without this preparation for the planting of the seed you would not reap such a fine harvest as you do when you have prepared your soil very thoroughly. And this is the thought that we bring to you all on this occasion of the harvest festival and the anniversary of the birth of this Lodge.

Many of you find life frustrating and difficult, and particularly when you are young. But it is not only when you are young, dear brethren. There will always be problems set for you, but these problems have the purpose of helping you to probe the hidden mysteries of life.

Now as a man has to prepare the soil before sowing his seed, so he has to prepare himself for the growth of the spiritual seed which has been planted in the heart. Now every man who is born on earth comes back from the realm of spirit holding in his heart chakra a seed, the atom seed of the Son of God or the Christ Being. You have heard us refer to this atom seed of life as the jewel, and the brethren of the Ancient Wisdom referred to it as the jewel within the lotus or the heart chakra. Now when problems and difficulties waylay your progress, do not blame God, do not blame other people around you. You may see plenty of faults in them and think that they are the cause of your distress and disappointment and frustration. Not at all!

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They are your teachers; you are the pupil. And when you are confronted with difficulties, do as the gardener does or the farmer. Get to work; get to work and see what you, a Son of God, or a potential Son of God, can do to help matters. Very simple. You may think that we who come back to you from the realm of spirit do not understand your particular problem. Do not make any mistake, children of earth. Each one present has his guide, his guardian angel, his teacher, who is close to him in spirit. He has accompanied the incarnating soul to earth. He watches over that soul whilst on earth and, moreover, he himself – the guardian or the guide – has endured exactly the same sorrow and loneliness and suffering and pain, misunderstanding that you are suffering. He knows minutely what you are suffering and how you feel. You remember the words of one of our Elder Brethren who said, 'Remember, little pupil, the stones that have cut your feet have cut mine ere they touched yours'.

Now this, my children, is to show you that you cannot suffer alone. Whatever you endure, it is shared. Now because you cannot see your companion, because you have not yet reached the point on the path of spiritual progress when you can see your shining Master, it does not mean that he is not there. Remember this: the Brotherhood, the silent Brotherhood which is ever watching over you. You do not realise, perhaps, the power which is within you – the spiritual power. We are always trying to explain to you the two aspects of life, these two great wheels which are grinding away upon the jewel. The rough jewel is not beautiful when it is in its rough rock state, but when it has been cut and polished – and the finer the cutting the greater the knowledge of the workman who cuts the jewel – the brighter and more perfect is the light which sparkles from that jewel.

May this message help you, and may it remind you that upon your life are these two wheels working. You call them good and evil, or you may call them light and darkness. The light, of course, is the light of the Spirit, the Christ Spirit. The darkness is matter which envelops the Spirit and covers it up, and that matter has to be erased, it has to be gradually cut away by this power which eternally working upon the seed of God, the jewel within the lotus.

Now this, my children of earth, is why you have to endure – not only with courage but with assurance that in the end you will produce the perfect jewel. The same teaching is embodied in all the ancient mystery schools, and the mystery schools which we call ancient are the same yesterday and today, the same inner teaching. Now it is presented in many religions in a different form, but we would like you to understand that true religion is the spiritual unfoldment, development, of man. A religion which just gives words, unless those words are comprehended by the listener, means nothing. Religion brought right down to simplicity is the personal experience in man's heart. Now before you have finished you have to learn to go inward. You commence to learn when you have proved to your own satisfaction that you can live outside your physical body. You commence by getting proof, or evidence as you call it, of life after death, but this is only a very small part of the great whole. But it does at least enable man or cause man to think and to admit that there is something within him which cannot be seen, something which does not die. It continues to live in a different sphere of life.

Now this is most helpful, and this is why the truth of continuity of life and the proof of communication between the spirit world and the earth world was given to mankind at a time when he needed it most, which you will remember was when the teachings of science, the

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findings of science of that day rocked the spiritual teachings of the church doctrine. Now the Wise Ones, the Council above, provided for this. They knew that many souls on earth would be devastated, broken-hearted when they found themselves face to face with certain scientific facts which shook their faith, and so the Elder Brethren caused a new awakening on the earth, and this came in the form of physical demonstrations from the next state of life to prove to man that he could not die, that he continued to live.

Now this was the most valuable truth for man to receive, and now we commence to build upon that truth, the truth of spirit life. We begin to see that man is both spirit and physical body. Man is spirit and matter, but of course as we advance a little further along the path we shall begin to see that there is no separation between spirit and matter, and that man has to learn to unfold his own God powers so that in due time when he graduates from his earth school – this does not mean when he dies, do not make any mistake – when he graduates from his school of matter on earth, he commences to see *what* he is, *where* he is, and the goal which lies ahead.

Man will, in the New Age, most certainly develop these higher qualities of consciousness, God-consciousness, which will enable him to release himself from the bondage of earth. Not by dying – no – by going forth in full consciousness on the spirit plane of life, or a spiritual plane of life and seeing the glories of that higher life. What does your Bible say? 'Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, the glories which God has prepared for them that love Him.' That is the keyword, children – *love* – and the whole life in physical matter is enabling the individual to learn the power, the joy and the happiness which Love brings.

It is all there in the loving heart. This is the harvest of life. Has it occurred to you – I expect it has – that you are sowing the seeds of karma *now*? You have been sowing them this morning. You may have reaped a little bit from your sowing this morning already. Karma does not mean that you are going to reap the harvest or otherwise – reap thistles and weeds or the beautiful flowers in two or three thousand years. You people on earth a little bit too fond of speaking of your Egyptian incarnation or your Indian incarnation or your American incarnation and so on! You talk very lightheartedly about all these wonderful incarnations but stay, my children. You have all lived for ages. It is true. But do you yet realise what you are doing? How you are sowing the seeds of karma? You see, you may do a very foolish thing. You may take hold of a very hot rod that you have been using for the fire and your hand is burnt. You do it ignorantly, quickly, without thought. A burnt hand. This is a very quick karmic return! You may do it quite similarly in your human relationships. You may say a thoughtless, perhaps an unkind word. Before you know where you are you have got it back on you. This is your karma. If you had sown a gentle word, something very sweet and surprising, no doubt a beautiful little flower like a violet would come before you. Do you see what we mean? This is a very simple illustration, but we from above feel it is so necessary for our dear earthly brethren to understand.

Nothing is impossible for you to accomplish – but not by yourself. Whatever you are undertaking, whatever you are striving to do, never say or think, 'Alone I did it'. The spirit within man is the power that doeth the work, that giveth life. 'The letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.'

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Sowing and reaping. This is man's life. And the harvest can come whilst you are still in your physical life. Certainly you will be seeing a clearer picture in the heavenly world but you would not be ready to participate in the joys of heaven until you have learned the lesson here in your physical life. All lessons are learned whilst the soul is in incarnation. Never forget.

And now, my children, before we leave you, He who is All-Love, the Golden Shining One, comes into your midst bringing to you on this occasion the golden wheat and the white and red grapes. This for yourselves of the symbolism which He is giving to you – the golden grain and the grapes of heaven....

Absorb these spiritual truths into you whole being – the bread and the wine of heaven. And the baptism of the spirit is given to you now. You are fed, you are enriched and stimulated from heaven – remember, from heaven.

And, my children, for these gifts in your earthly life, the gifts of the earth, from the Great Mother, the Divine Mother, who is so tender and so bountiful with her gifts, the gifts of spiritual sustenance. This little Lodge – not the bricks and the building but the divine fire which is kindled here and which is continually being fed by God's love, by the love of the Brotherhood and the companionship of loved ones around you on earth. You are co-workers with the silent Brotherhood in spirit who have kindled this fire and are causing you to build the fire into a tremendous flame to purify the earth, to give light to those who are in darkness, to help man to love his brother man and to work co-operatively with all life.

Do you feel, do you see the presence of the saint of the animals and the birds? You know him as St Francis, but he of course, although he loved all life, is a symbol, a figure to teach you, the onlooker, the way of life – to love Brother Animal, to love Brother Air, to love Brother Sunshine, yes, and even to love Brother Rain, although you have a little too much of it just now on your earth, as we well know. Even this is in its place, and later on you will see why there is so much rain at this season, the same as you will see why later on in your life certain events had to take place, and then, my children, you will be able to kneel in spirit before the flaming altar and say, 'Thank God; Thy bounty is beyond all limit'.

Dear Father God, we thank Thee for life – for lessons, for food both spiritual and physical; we thank Thee for knowledge which develops into wisdom, and we thank Thee for the crown of life. Eternal, eternal love, beauty and all happiness, dear ones. We leave you and withdraw to our higher world of spirit, but we come again to help you to see and to know the harvest which awaits you.

God bless you; God bless you all, dear brethren.

*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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*spiritual work, spiritual service, service, seasons, path of the soul, spiritual path, path of  
initiation, cause and effect, reincarnation, rebirth, life after death, spiritual unfoldment, past  
lives, previous life, Mother Goddess, Francis of Assisi*

