

Gifts from Spirit

A278 Sunday Address 2nd October 1955 St Mary Abbots Place, London Michaelmas and Harvest Festival

Text: another top-copy typescript in the same style as so many others of 1955, with the date and the heading, 'White Eagle's Harvest Festival Service'.

Context: the Lodge had reopened a fortnight previously, and 1955 followed the pattern of the Harvest service being held on the first Sunday in October; in fact, this address stems out of Michaelmas, which had occurred only three days earlier. White Eagle speaks of 'this little circle' but the phrase probably implies intimacy rather than a small congregation, a suggestion which the next sentence in any case somewhat contradicts. He thanks the choir and in particular 'one of our little ones' who has contributed. It is not clear who this might have been. Maybe it was a solo by a child. It is just possible that it was the first time that Mary Brameld, who would have been roughly 25, played the organ in the service.

Near the end, White Eagle refers to the main reading, with the words, 'if you live by a carnal law, then you will suffer the carnal law' – adding that if you live by the Holy Breath, you will receive the blessings of the spiritual life. There are various possibilities as to what this reading might have been, but it may have been part of the Sermon on the Mount.

This is an unusually lengthy address, and finishes with a rather beautiful communion which seems to connect well with the Harvest theme.

General Notes: see 'context' for the evocation of Michaelmas, with White Eagle connecting the power of St Michael with both sowing and harvest. In his thanks for the music of the service White Eagle invokes 'F.B.' (Francis Bacon) alongside a request for a Lodge service and hymn book – a project that to this day has never been fully realised. White Eagle is anxious to connect the earthly harvest with an inner harvest of human experience: it leads to a discussion of *dharma* and *karma*. Later, at the suggestion human beings should be condemned for their actions, White Eagle gives an unusually forceful 'No! No! No, dear ones, no!' There is a nice simplicity about White Eagle's alternative prescription: 'That is all that is needed, for every individual to sow good seeds everywhere – that is all'. He is then quite prophetic in saying that the time will come soon that human beings generally will quite naturally begin to turn away from eating meat. The final message is one of thankfulness.

References: 'As you sow, so shall ye reap' is Galatians 6 : 7. The reference to the Age of Aquarius, 'when God will pour out His spirit upon all men', is a reminder of the astrological symbol for Aquarius, the man with the watering pot. For the reading, see 'Context'; the phrase 'pressed down and running over' is from Luke 6 : 38. The communion at the end contains a number of references to the Last Supper in the various Gospels, but enlarges on the symbolism; 'I am the true vine' is John 15 : 1.

White Eagle's Address:

Beloved brethren, we speak from the world of spirit to bring you joy, good tidings, peace of heart. We are delighted to be with you and to draw very close into this little circle of faithful hearts.

Now we are speaking to-night to our regular worshippers in this Lodge, which of course includes all brethren, all brothers of the Star, and we would describe to you the company of angelic beings who are with you. But first we direct your vision to a blazing star, the brilliance [of which] you can scarcely see, but you will just become aware of a great star of

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light and in the centre of this star you will see faintly the form, the presence in form, of the Lord Christ. And all around in a vast circle you will see the Angels of the Christ Circle.

Now during the past week there has been celebrated in your churches the Festival of St Michael and All Angels, and this is a very important festival, because people on earth do not recognise, because they do not know, the place which the angels have in the production of the harvest. In ancient days there were great ceremonies at the time of the sowing of the seed. These ceremonies now lie within life: that is to say, they have been withdrawn on to what is known as the inner planes, but there are still places all over the world and in your own island of Britain, stone circles, mountain or hill tops marked by stone, for those who can read and understand the mark, but these ancient stones were the scene of ceremonies in which the angels and all the nature spirits took part at the time of the sowing. And so Michael, who is the great bearer of the harvest, both physical and spiritual, the harvest of humanity, draws close at this time of the year; and if you are sensitive to the Holy Breath, you will be sensitive to the presence of Michael and All Angels now.

We look round with our astral eyes and we see your offerings, God's offerings to you, and you have received them unconsciously maybe, or consciously, from the Giver of Life; and you have brought them back to Him in thankfulness for the production of the harvest. All such gifts, whatever they are, whether they are the result of physical labour, mental labour or spiritual labour, are acceptable to God and all the heavenly hosts, and therefore we will say 'thank you', as you say 'thank you' with us. And we would make special reference to the gift of music, which we know has been a rich harvest, of one of our little ones, and the Master wishes that one to know that the gift of love and devotion is received with thankfulness, and blessings go forth upon our little organist. And we have also to give thanks and blessing to our choir for their service, for the great service which they render to the White Eagle Lodge, and we are guided by those behind to say that in time, a short time, you must give thought to the compiling of a book of service, all these services of the White Eagle Lodge, including prayers and anthems and your own hymns as well as well-chosen and beautiful hymns from other sources. There is one with me now who was a devotee and a server of one whom many of you know as F.B. Now he has given through his scribe certain verses. Now these verses must be set to music and printed in a hymn book and service book of the White Eagle Lodge.

Now we are taking this opportunity of saying these things to you tonight for a certain purpose. This is your Harvest Festival, and it is not only the harvest of fruit and flowers, the harvest of Mother Earth and the Sun. It is also the harvest of the spirit, and we want you to remember this, dear ones: that you can produce a rich spiritual harvest, mental, intellectual harvest too, provided it is well-balanced, well-seasoned with heart. Give it in the service of God and your fellow men. We know of no other season in the whole year which is such a fine object lesson to the soul of man than a Harvest Festival. It is quite clearly a time of review, of looking into one's own heart and examining the opportunities which have been given to the soul. This is our message to you to-night. Look back and see the opportunities, however small they are, the opportunities which have been given to you during the past years, during your whole lifetime, the opportunities of sowing seeds in physical life, in your own everyday life.

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Maybe you will feel a little disappointed, but remember that the Harvest Festival is such a clear demonstration, object lesson, to you of the law of Dharma and Karma.

Dharma [is] the Law of Opportunities, the seeds which are given to you or which you bring with you from the world of spirit, seeds which you have harvested from past incarnations; and you have, accompanying these seeds, you have also the gifts of Karma. Now we say the 'gifts', the Harvest Festival 'gifts' of your karma because your karma, although you think at times it is very unpleasant – it may be, but it is a wonderful opportunity – and if we say to you in very simple language that the difficulties and disappointments in people and in your life, and in your own life, the difficulties and disappointments are God's appointments for you; they are your karma and they bring with them wonderful, wonderful opportunity for the development and growth, growth and development, in your soul.

They bring to you the light of the Sun, enabling the fruits of your experience to ripen and produce a rich and possibly rare harvest. Dharma, as the Eastern brethren teach, is the Law, coupled with Karma, the Law of Sowing and Reaping. As you sow, so shall ye reap. You pass away from the physical body; you go to a world which we call the world of light, the world of the Sun, the inner planes, the inner world – but it is no less a real world, a world of truth, and even if there are dark places in that world, no soul can escape the truth, and it is the facing up to the truth that causes the soul to feel sorrowful. God does not inflict punishment on his children; man inflicts it upon himself. When he is growing in spirit, when he is developing, he is able to see more clearly his weaknesses and his omissions. He sees particularly in the spirit world, he sees where he failed to do those things which he ought to have done when he was on earth. But what we want you to realise is this, that there is no condemnation by God. God is all love and all mercy but it is only natural that, when the light enters into a soul, enabling it to see more clearly where it missed opportunities of doing good, of giving love, of helping others, of praising and thanking God for good gifts, whenever there has been an omission by the soul, then that soul suffers; it is regretful, it is sad.

And so on this Harvest Festival day we would say to you, 'Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, my dear brethren'. Whatever your position at the present moment, thank God for what is given to you; even if it is misfortune, so-called, look up into the face of your Creator and say: 'Thank God, for this is an opportunity to develop my soul; this is an opportunity to prove truth within mine own heart and give truth out into the world, not by being brutal with your words or unkind but by being all loving and all kind'. Some people do not approve of us saying these things; they do not agree. They think that there are some people that must be told they are wrong and must be punished for their wrong-doing. No! No! No, dear ones, no! We say to you, preserve a quiet mind and a wise, loving heart. You have no need to be anxious. Those who trouble you, maybe attempt to injure you, they are all within the law of God, the great spiritual law of love; and to give you comfort if you are disturbed or troubled emotionally, we would say to you – do not think about the seeds that other people are sowing but think about the harvest that you are expected to bring home to your Father–Mother God. You need not worry about those people who do you harm; they are all safely cared for by a loving spirit, eternal spirit.

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Now the whole world should come to this state of consciousness that all they had to do was to send out goodness and love and kindness and thoughtfulness for other people. That is all that is needed, for every individual to sow good seeds everywhere – that is all. It does not matter what the other man does. It is what we do, what you do on the earth that is important to you. Sow the good seed, all kindness and brotherhood, thankfulness, trustfulness. God will do the rest.

God is the Infinite Power which bringeth forth the fruits of the earth and the fruits of the spirit. Miracles happen daily, hourly, but man on earth is too busy to notice them. He is so concerned with his own little importance, he does not witness the miracles of God. Look around here at these gifts of yours, rich and beautiful gifts of Mother Earth. They could not be here without the touch of God. Now some people will say: ‘Oh, but this is just the natural law, the outworking of nature’. Oh no! It is not nature alone; nature takes a part; the great Mother Earth plays her part; man plays his part, for God uses man to prepare the earth and to sow the seeds. The Sun of God gives life and sheds forth light and warmth and produces the rain, to water the earth. No, these things are not done by nature alone but by the power of a Divine Intelligence, the power of magic if you like, and from a small seed or a small bulb or tuber, there is produced a miracle of beauty – and food for you, food for the physical body and food for the mind and food for the spirit, for do not forget that the physical food you take into your body affects not only the cells of the physical body but all the higher bodies too.

And we would like you to realise this truth tonight, because it is a very important thing that you should realise the truth in this new age of Aquarius, the age of the spirit, the age when God will pour out His spirit upon all men; but unless all men are ready, purified, so that his vehicles become sensitive to the outpoured spirit, he will not receive it into himself. And so we would say unto you tonight: ‘Think well on these things, the necessity in this new age of Aquarius of the bodies of man being purified by pure food, pure food, the food of nature, Mother Earth, and the Father God and Christ the Son, the Spirit. Sun-kissed food, wheat, fruits, nuts, vegetables, all the sweet, pure products of Mother Earth’. Now as these are taken into the body, so the body becomes higher in its sensitivity to spiritual things, to heavenly things; the brain becomes more active and more receptive to the inspiration which flows to man from higher and more evolved beings.

Now do not be unwise. We say to you: ‘Think on these things and take a step at a time’ Do not go away and say: ‘Oh, we were told at that service we must not eat meat and we must not eat this and we must not eat that’. We are not saying this. We are only pointing out to you the trend of things in the new age and it will not be very many years hence that this idea, which is being broadcast from our world, will take root everywhere. Well, you have only got to look back fifty years or maybe a hundred years in your world and you will see the difference; you may be able to compare the difference in the table that you set before your guests today and the table people set a century ago, and you know, you can see, how much more sensible and purer the food which is being put before man today. Now this is a spiritual necessity; we assure you, and it will have an effect upon all man’s nature and it is necessary for the

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purification of the body before the outgoing of the spirit which has been promised in the new age.

Dear ones, we want you at this moment to think in terms of love for all creation. Not only do you bring gifts here, but you pour it from your heart – thankfulness, thankfulness for these gifts of the harvest, but more than this, thankfulness for the gifts which have been given to you, spiritual gifts in the form of a broader vision, wider knowledge, deeper happiness, peace and contentment. How can you estimate the value of such gifts? – and these have been given to you during your lifetime, the whole of your lifetime; as you have been growing up, as you have been maturing, you have been learning lessons. You have had unpleasant things, but always, always, always, after something hard has happened in your life, following it has come an event which has brought you deep happiness. And when these events come to you, you feel so happy and you say: ‘Oh, thank God’ but you do not realise or think deeply about that thankfulness. You say: ‘Oh, thank God it is over’. ‘Thank God it has happened.’ But it is all said flippantly.

And at this Harvest Festival we would point out to you the value of pausing and thinking over the events of your life and remember the times when you have said: ‘Oh thank God it hasn’t happened’ or ‘Thank God it has happened’. Remember that God has brought home to you a rich harvest in some form or another, a harvest to your spirit, some beautiful flower, or maybe a beautiful fruit which you have absorbed into your soul and found sustenance and strength and an expansion of consciousness. But these things happen unconsciously as a rule. There are a few who are alive and awake and ever-conscious of these gifts which come from the spirit, from God, to you; and we want you this very night to go over all the gifts of your life with a deep and thankful heart.

You know, dear ones, there is nothing like thankfulness for opening wide the gates of heaven. Thankfulness releases all tension. If you have lost a dear one, one that you loved very dearly, do not regret and do not grumble that that one has passed forward or has been taken to a different part of the earth, but be thankful that you have known that person, that you have lived many happy hours and enjoyed the companionship and the love of that one. Do not begrudge God. Thank God for everything that has been given to you out of great love and mercy. This we beg you to do – and if you are troubled in spirit this night, we say to you: ‘Have patience. Have patience. Your need will be supplied’. But remember there is an acceptable time for the Lord, not your time but at the right time, and then you will feel that full measure of blessing; then you will indeed feel that you want to go down on your knees and say: ‘Thank God. Oh, thank God’ – not flippantly but in all truth and earnestness. ‘My God, I am overwhelmed by Thy mercy and Thy love. I see now. I catch a glimpse of the outworking of Thy plan, and I feel in my heart that I have grown in spirit as a result of my experience.’

Look up, my dear ones, look up. You cannot look too high and you cannot aim too high. Look up to heavenly things. As your reading said, if you live by a carnal law, then you will suffer the carnal law, but if you live by the Holy Breath, which is the spiritual law, you will

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be blessed and you will receive in full measure, pressed down and running over, the blessings of that spiritual life, brought to you with the love of the holy Father, Mother and Son.

Thank you, dear ones, for the opportunity you give to the brethren in the spirit life to speak to you and to serve you and to love you. We could not work without your love and we know that you will all be blessed by the overwhelming love of the heavenly hosts.

Before we close this service we would raise your thoughts and your vision once again to the blazing star above us. With your inner vision or your imagination, see the figure step down towards you, offering you once again the true communion; the bread which he has blessed and broken, he gives you to eat – ‘The symbol of my body’, he says, ‘the symbol of the earthly life. Eat and remember me’. He offers you the goblet of wine, the juice of the grapes, saying: ‘I am the true vine and this juice is produced from the pressing of the grapes of my vine. The spirit may be bruised but it produces the wine of my spirit. Drink. Remember me.’ This is the true Harvest Festival.

The blessing of the Most High, the Father–Mother God and His Son, be with you in your heart now. Amen. Amen. Amen.

We thank Thee, Father.

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:

Michaelmas, sacred places, thanksgiving, nature, natural world, cause and effect, positive thought, gratitude, communion, food, diet