

The Revelation of St John - V

T054 The Inner Teachings 21st July 1937 Pembroke Hall, London

Invocation:

O God, the Father of all living creatures, the light of the mind and the love in the heart, Who does sustain life in all its perplexities, Who does control the elements, Who art the perfect life. We pray that we may draw nearer in understanding to the truth of our being. We call upon the angels of peace to bring unto us their stillness and the quietude of the loving heart. Being thus prepared, we call upon the angels of wisdom and power to work in brotherhood with us, bringing understanding, so that these our brethren on earth may tread the path of life with great hope and courage, so that they may serve the great plane of evolution which Thou in Thy great love and wisdom hast prepared for Thy sons of men*.

Amen.

*[*For editorial policy around gender, see the introduction.]*

Tonight we conclude this short series on the Revelation of St John. We are well aware that we have touched but briefly on the profound mystery hidden in these writings, but we are limited by your own inability to understand and the difficulty of finding adequate words. You hear us with the intellect, or the mind of earth—how can we express in words that which is inexpressible! Man likes to call a spade a spade, to handle and analyse and classify, to put his hand in the Master's side to feel the sacred wounds, to be quite sure. Therefore words which we have used you have doubtless applied to physical and material conditions. Some of the questions will centre here on whether the prophecies of Revelation actually refer to happenings which must take place in the physical manifestation of life.

Now your questions.

Q.Revelation does not seem to me only a symbolic tale of creation. Surely there are many prophecies yet to be fulfilled on earth? How can we become useful instruments if such a world crisis should come?

A.Regarding the prophecies which remain to be fulfilled: first, we understand that Revelation is borrowed from or contained in the ancient mysteries or teachings of the mystery schools of Egypt and Greece. Had we time and ability we could compare, word for word, each reference in John to some detail or degree on the path which the neophyte followed. Like truths and teaching are to be found in the esoteric symbolism of freemasonry*, and also in the pyramids of Egypt. Man, reading St John's Revelation today, would interpret these mysteries to the satisfaction of his earth mind. Indeed, there are many interpretations—one could say seven different interpretations, and even that would be limiting the number.

*[*White Eagle refers to freemasonry as a form of universal truth or teaching, with no specific reference to the freemasonry of today.]*

With regard to details such as the description of the four beasts, which can be interpreted to mean the four fixed signs of the zodiac, and correctly, this would contain only a tiny aspect of the cosmic truths unfolded within these visions. The vision of St John enshrines the mystery

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of the whole universe from the beginning to the end, not only of the creation of the world and the solar system of this earth but also the life of man, the mysteries of the microcosm and of the macrocosm. Many of the references to beasts and animals and to the fiery signs refer also to astronomical or astrological truths. Although certain constellations are referred to, remember we are dealing mainly with the evolution of the soul of man. Nevertheless, with continual reincarnations in the life of the soul there must sooner or later be brought to bear upon the soul the influences of each sign of the zodiac.

With regard to the prophecies which many feel refer to actual physical happenings, this is also true, though not perhaps as you would think, for as the life-streams are sent forth, each produces a root race, and cycles move in spiral form. Let us conceive the spiral of existence as ever tracing and retracing a circle, with each round going higher; with each cycle, the human soul moves to a higher vibration, nearer to heaven. At the end of each vast round the cosmic forces, the two great powers—good and evil—become so active in operation that there comes an explosion. Such upheavals can be seen throughout the ages: the story of the flood in the Christian Bible refers to the sinking of Atlantis, where the two forces actually disturbed the equilibrium of the cosmos and caused the destruction of the life of that continent—a great purification.

At certain periods in the world's history this must take place, but as below, so above, and when we refer to Armageddon as being foreshadowed on the higher or spiritual planes, this is in accordance with John. He is dealing almost exclusively with the progress or evolution of the microcosm. There must come to every soul that upheaval, cleansing, purification; the war between the higher and the lower in the self must be fought out. This comes, not necessarily in cataclysmic form as in the past—not necessarily; there can be the war on the inner planes, the war on the astral, which of course has its repercussion on the earth, but we stress the point that St John refers definitely to the war between the higher and the lower self.

My questioner asks: if there be likelihood of this disturbance on earth, should not you and I prepare ourselves? Most certainly. This is the purpose of the White Brotherhood. The present upheaval in Spain, the condition of Europe, of all nations struggling for supremacy, signifies the spiritual growth of humanity. The white light can steer the course on to a higher and safer condition of life, and this is where you as individuals can help to keep the balance, so that there will be no shattering of the equilibrium of the cosmic forces. If the power of good, or the white magic, the white light, be not strong enough, then there must be upheaval, but not necessarily physical; it depends on invisible forces of light and love. If you, and many like you, can send forth the light to assist the powers in the heavens, then the nations will come to harbour safely.*

*[*For an explanation about White Eagle's use of the word 'white', please see the Introduction.]*

Q. Who were the Nicolaitans*, and what was their teaching?

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A. This is my explanation. The Nicolaitans were they who, long ago, came to power, broke away from the original, perfect men, and set up their own kingdom—the group of humans who first fell from perfection and brought into the world the lust for power. You can interpret them as a nation, but we say the group which separated themselves from the White Light and worked to dominate their fellows.

*[*A heretical sect first mentioned in Revelation 2 : 6]*

Q. ‘The Second Death’—is this the second death referred to by Conan Doyle in the book ‘Thy Kingdom Come’*?

*[*Now published as ‘Arthur Conan Doyle’s Book of the Beyond’]*

A. The second death refers to a recognised degree in the mysteries. Some will recognise here the third degree of the Masonic mysteries, the condition of the soul when, having perfected itself through experience of the earth, it passes onward through the second death into the heaven world.

Q. Please elucidate the following: ‘To him that overcometh, will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.’ [2 : 17]

A. A reference to a masonic secret. How far dare I go? The neophyte, having passed a certain degree, was given as an outward symbol in the old days a stone bearing a special name or mark. Every individual sounds his own vibration, his own note in the invisible, and this sound, vibrating through the invisible, is his ‘mark’. That mark is placed upon the stone given to the neophyte. It is more than a white stone placed in the hand, for rather is the ‘mark’ actually sealed upon the heart; ‘I will give to eat of the hidden manna’, the bread of life which comes down from heaven, the sustenance for the spirit, the food from God.

Q. Re: ‘He that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God.’ [3 : 12]

A. ‘I will make him a pillar in the temple’, a perfect ‘ashlar’—the perfected soul, which fits the temple of God. When the soul is thus perfected, he is a perfected pillar in the temple (masons will appreciate this reference) and there is no further need for reincarnation.

Q. ‘In the midst of the throne... four beasts’ [4 : 6] Are the four beasts the four fixed signs?

A. Yes, that is an interpretation—in fact I believe that John actually makes it plain, but again, there is a much deeper meaning involving cosmic truths not possible to explain. These things will eventually be made clear when you take the higher initiations, but not in this ‘day’ of life; not perhaps for many, many years to come.

Q. ‘...four beasts full of eyes round before and behind.’ [4 : 6]

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A. The eyes are lights; the lights are the centres of force in the human body. You have all heard us refer to the psychic centres. In some the lower are the more active, but as man evolves, the more spiritual centres develop. These blaze out like great lights in the illumined ones. And the 'wings' of the beasts refer to the higher bodies, the higher vehicles of man. Think it out for yourself. What does one do with wings—fly away from the earth! The wings are spiritual vehicles or bodies which enable man to rise above the earth.

Q. Are we now entering upon the 'seventh period'? [Ch. 10]

A. This brings us back to an early part of this talk. I know the hope which is yours, but the 'seventh period' is some distance away yet, dear one, nor shall we enter upon it for many, many thousands of years. I am sorry to disappoint you, because I know that you are so eager for such delight, but it is a long way off yet. There are indeed *individuals*, who, many of them, are now preparing to enter upon that seventh evolution—but not humanity as a whole. The 'seventh period' refers to the time when there will be a completion of the earth's life, the seventh day, the period when all will be complete and earth's humanity, all its examinations passed, will have perfected itself and will then pass on, but many, many ages away!

Q. 'Two witnesses' [11 : 3]. Are these Moses and Elijah?

A. There may be those who interpret the 'two witnesses' as the two prophets; they would be right to a certain extent, but go deeper: the two witnesses can be likened to the two pillars, each supporting the arch, the two pillars of human creation—the heart and the mind. A very mystical interpretation, but when you think deeply you will understand that these two witnesses must be the heart and the mind, created by God, supporters of creation. There is later on an attack upon the two which takes place upon the earth. Certain schools of thought attack and overpower these two witnesses of God. The Law again—the Law of Christ; you cannot break the Law of Love, which dwells in the heart centre. If you do, it must mean the destruction of that which attacks. Any enemy attacking that Law must be destroyed.

Q. 'And there was given unto him [the beast] a mouth speaking great things... and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months'. [13 : 5]

A. Power was given unto him to continue for a certain period of time—forty and two months. You all want to have a perfected earth quickly! This time we interpret as meaning the period necessary for the soul to pass all initiations, learn all its lessons. Forty is a special number. Christ was forty days in the wilderness; the children of Israel were forty years in the wilderness before they entered upon the promised land. This suggests that the number forty refers to a symbolic period of time through which the soul must pass before it can enter into its promised land.

Throughout the Old Testament is hidden the Secret Doctrine, portraying in allegory, parable and fable, all containing the mystical story of the journey of man on the path towards regeneration, or the return again to the perfect state of life which existed in the beginning

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before the descent of the spirit—a path which was necessary to bring forth from the unconscious the God-conscious soul.

Q. Is the woman a symbol of truth?

A. We referred to the woman in one of the previous talks as symbolic of the Secret Doctrine. The woman can well be interpreted as a system of truth or the Secret Doctrine, which is the woman clothed with the Sun. John continually says ‘...hear what the spirit saith unto the churches’ [2 : 7]. The Secret Doctrine or the system of truth is represented by the woman clothed in glory, the glory of the Sun, the Sun being Christ, the Light, the Son of the Father.

May God bless every one of you. However far you travel, nevertheless the link with old White Eagle will not be broken. Every thought you send we register; we are conscious of you always, for you are as a chord struck in our heart. Do you understand? We enfold you in the Great Light, in a great love. Love one another; be at peace with mankind, and do the work of your Father in heaven; as one body we wait in the presence of God to receive the baptism of His wisdom, His love and His power.

Benediction:

O God, our heavenly Father, we give thanks unto Thee; all praise we sing in our souls; all honour we give unto Thee in our service and in our lives. Keep us within Thine everlasting arms.

Amen.

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Chakra, myth, legend