

Glad Tidings of Great Joy

A408 Sunday Address 22nd December 1968 St Mary Abbots Place, London Festival of Carols

Text: MB typescript, a pale carbon. The published version in *Stella Polaris*, December 1969–January 1970, is heavily edited and the copy used contains those edits (by YGH) in black felt pen, rendering a few words unreadable.

Context: a short address, to fit in with what was doubtless a substantial programme of carols. MB tells us that there were 'Exquisite white lilies beautifully arranged on the Altar'. A printed or duplicated programme was given to the congregation – possibly for the first time, since MB takes the trouble to note it, when she has never done so before. This means we do not know what carols were sung. Minesta's Invocation was recorded elsewhere, and Brother Faithful read first from Isaiah (52 : 7 and 9 : 6-7) and then from Matthew (2 : 1-11). The Isaiah words end 'and of his kingdom there shall be no end' and the Matthew ends with the presentation of the Magi's gifts. There is no record of Brother Faithful saying a few words at the end as usual, maybe because of a Choir carol intervening.

General notes: this short address contains some definitive information from White Eagle about the distinction between Jesus and the Christ. There is also a very good account of the spiritual meaning of the winter solstice. A third keynote is struck by the account of the Star and what it is. Lastly, there are special words about the effect of music in the service. The music 'creates the power which enables those in spirit to help you all – because the music soothes the mind, soothes the heart and cultivates the power'. After White Eagle seems almost to have finished, he comes back to point out that reforms are not only achieved by legislation, but also by the power of love. This 'answer to the protests of 1968' seems like the culmination of a theme which has been running through his messages in this year. Despite its brevity, this is a very rich address.

References: 'tidings of great joy' are the message of the angels to the shepherds at Luke 2 : 10; 'love one another' is the overriding statement of St John's Gospel, but is introduced at 13 : 34 (the context might imply the words are from the Sermon on the Mount, but they are not, although there is plenty therein that fits the theme well); 'no man can serve two masters' is Matthew 6 : 24.

White Eagle's Address:

Beloved children of the earth plane of life, we come to you from the spirit spheres to bring you good tidings of great joy. Now you have heard these words many times before, but even so there are still only a few people living on earth in a physical body who understand the meaning of these simple words.

We in spirit, and those who are with us who come from the Christ Star Circle, bring you on this eve of Christmas a message of great joy. Remember this, dear children of Earth, that there is so much confusion at present in the minds of men and women living in a physical body, and even some who live not in a physical body but in an astral body, what you call the spirit world ... there are many people who are confused about the message of the Christ Mass. And we would say to every one of you tonight that this message is not for the orthodox religions only, it is for the whole world, for all mankind. It is the simple and old message which the great Master Jesus gave in his ministry when on earth. It is so simple that men did not heed it. Moreover, they say that in the material world such as you have on earth today the message of love is of no use at all, because the other man will not respond to our love.

But if there are occasions when this message has been ignored, and the good man has been unable to touch the heart of the earthly man, nevertheless there is a Divine Law – and this law has been given to all men in all religions through time. And what a man does he has to pay

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for, or he receives compensation for good works. Therefore, if the individual ignores your love – and we speak now, my dears, to you personally – if your love is ignored, take no notice, because all life is governed by the one supreme law: love, love, *love*.

Now this was the message. This is the message today, in what you call your modern world. Apply the law given by the Master Jesus in the Sermon of the Mount. It may take a little time for the infiltration of this divine message. Nevertheless, it is a Cosmic Law and cannot be ignored by mankind. There is only one answer to all the suffering in your world to-day. And this is, *love one another*.

And Jesus said: ‘You cannot love two masters; you will either hate the one and love the other’. [... word obliterated] you cannot love them both, which means man must love God first. Man must live in the consciousness of Divine Law. The law of love and brotherhood and goodwill.

Two thousand years ago the angels came to the shepherds with the same message: ‘Behold, we bring you good tidings of great joy. For unto you is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord.’ ‘A Saviour who is Christ’. What is Christ? Christ is not the great Lord and Master Jesus, remembering that every man is born of God. But Jesus, through many, many incarnations, through much sacrifice of himself and devotion to the truth of God and of love, prepared himself as a bridge or a channel for that Christ Light.

Children of earth, what is Christ? Christ is not a man. Christ is the Great Light, the saving power in man himself. Jesus is the great light. And the light shone right through the ages, through many, through many so-called saviours of many religions. Christ is the love, *the pure love*, which can and does so often manifest through man himself. And this takes place, my children, each Christmastide. Do you know, it would be a very sad thing for your earth’s humanity if the Christmas spirit were allowed to die. It will not be allowed to die, of course it will not, but we are appealing to you, you who may call yourselves Spiritualists or Theosophists or White Eagles or whatever name you live and worship under. You have received knowledge, my children, which is helping you to allow that Christ spirit in your own soul to manifest on earth. You have been given this wondrous gift of love, of the Christ love. And this is what Christmas is all about.

We know at Christmas time that the winter solstice comes. And in the winter solstice, in the cold bleak winter – don’t apply it to physical snow and cold, apply it to – shall we say – ethical, if you like, intellectual, snow and cold. But when man’s soul is cold, he is dead. Then comes the sunlight. And this so frequently takes place when man has suffered [word obliterated]; when man has lost a loved one, or when he has been reduced to the depths of despair by some event in his life. This is his winter solstice. The same as the winter solstice comes in nature and the natural processes of the seasons, so it can come into man’s soul, and at these times man becomes desperate. He does not know which way to turn, and he cries in his agony and loneliness, ‘O my God! My God!’ And he calls to the Source of his life, to his Father, and God sends to him His only begotten Son. Do you know what this means? It does not mean the physical birth of our beloved Master Jesus. It does not only mean that [it] is a story. Nevertheless it happened, Jesus was born on earth, although there are many who

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dispute this fact. But it is true, Jesus the Great Initiate *was* born on earth. But what we are trying to get across to you is that the *Christ spirit is born in man's heart*. When he cries to God his Father, a *light* is born in his soul. Although it may be very small at first and flickers many, many times and when the storm comes it is almost blown away, nevertheless that light continues to grow and grow in man's soul till it becomes a beautiful star.

Why does man look up to the Star? Why did the Wise Men follow the Star? Because the Star is the symbol of the Christ spirit, the Christ light in man's heart; the beautiful, gentle, sweet, loving, Christ. And men are given [typist omission]. The Wise Men were first told to follow the Star, but they could not help themselves because they had this urge within them to find truth. And the Star is truth, and the Star is the symbol of the Christ man, or as our brethren in spirit would tell you, the symbol of man made perfect: a man who has, through his life's journey and many, many journeys in physical matter, has eventually developed into the perfect man, the perfect Son of God. The perfectly balanced man between heaven and earth. The balanced man is a human man as Jesus was human. And Jesus took so many of his illustrations to teach his disciples from ordinary, simple, everyday simply happenings. Christ was a simple man, but he so conquered and disciplined his being – his body and his mind – that he had at his command powers which very, very few men have achieved. There are many men who can be called magical, very many magicians, but they lack one supreme truth: truth of the Christ love in their hearts, in their lives. They cannot apply that Divine Law of which we have already spoken, the Divine Law of *Love*.

And this, my children, is the meaning of the Christ spirit, the universal Spirit which broods over the whole of mankind and will continue to do so until all men in all countries throughout the world have learnt this profound Divine message. Love conquers all things. Love is of God.

We thank the Choir for their beautiful music, and we would like you to know that it is the music in the Lodge which creates the power which enables those in spirit to help you all – because the music soothes the mind, soothes the heart and cultivates the power. The heart is made still and quiet when you are listening to music, real music. And real music is of the soul and the spirit. Dear Choir, thank you for your hours of practice and devotion. And we would take this opportunity to say oh such a sincere and big thank you to all our dear members and brethren and friends for their help, their strength and all the work they do for the building up of this Lodge; for without your help, my children, we could not continue to build our Lodge on earth. Nor could we continue to create in the ether a beautiful White Temple in the country, which will before very long become materialised on your earth, a centre of light and healing and comfort for all mankind.

And don't make the mistake, children, of thinking that legislation is the only kind of reform that can help mankind. Do remember that within you is the power of *love*. The power of love can come from our world to heal, to comfort and to bring into a life such happiness, *such happiness* which no material gift or advantage can bring. And from the spiritual power within man all the crooked places in his life can be and will be made straight. This is our message to our dear ones, our message to everyone who will listen to it, or read it.

Glad Tidings of Great Joy

A408 Sunday Address 22nd December 1968 St Mary Abbots Place, London Festival of Carols

And now, my children, will you at this moment concentrate upon the great masters, to whom you all owe so much? There they are, in white, in the world of spirit, working unceasingly for you and every individual who wills to receive it.

And above all, in human form, that universal figure, the Cosmic Christ, pouring upon all the golden blessing, the golden rays from his heart. This is the Christ Mass. Absorb it, hold it. It is his gift of gold *to you... to you... to you... to you*. To everyone who wills to receive it, his gift of gold...

A blessed and deeply happy Christmas to you all.

Amen.

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:

heaven world, world of light, nativity, winter solstice, yule, birth of Jesus, light within, inner light, holy spirit, divine plan, spirit world, divine balance, star symbol, six-pointed star, magi, Christ spirit, sermon, teachings, Bible

