

From the Unreal to the Real

A095 Sunday Address 7th December 1941 St Mary Abbots Place, London Sunday Service

The text of this address is as issued in the magazine Angelus after it was given, apart from correction of errors

Text: from Angelus, January 1942

Context: a normal Sunday service, actually in Advent, but not directly referring in any way to the Christmas story until the very last sentence.

General Notes: this address seems to follow on rather naturally from the address on the subject of brotherhood on 5th October the same year.

References: the saying of the title and first paragraph is the Pavamana Mantra, to be found originally in the Brihadanyaka Upanishad. The full threefold mantra is otherwise rendered in English as:

From falsehood lead me to truth,
From darkness lead me to the light,
From death lead me to immortality.

It is a saying particularly popular in Theosophy.

'Father, forgive them for they know not what they do' are Jesus's words from the cross, reported in Luke 23 : 34. White Eagle's 'you cannot sow tares and reap wheat' is his summary of the Parable of the Tares, in Matthew 13 : 34-43, although the parable has other points to make besides this; the slant also borrows from the next reference, 'Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap', which is from Galatians 6 : 7-9. White Eagle finally mentions the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew chapter 5-7) and Jesus's all-embracing saying, 'Love one another' (John 13 : 34, reiterated at John 14 : 12). Finally there is a reference to "I am the way, the truth and the life' (John 14 : 6).

White Eagle's Address:

We shall base our talk upon a saying of an ancient teacher. Most of you present have heard it, many fully understand its purport. The saying is this: *from the unreal lead me to the real; from darkness lead me to the light.* Not a soul in this assembly does not utter this prayer from his innermost. The greatest need for humanity today is to be led from the unreal to the real; for the conditions all over your earth are unreal, unnatural. 'Unreal' means *unnatural*. All things natural to the life and the well-being of man come from God. They are of God.

This is why we continually urge you to live harmoniously. At present you are so divorced from harmony that you can hardly recall, so far as the world is concerned, what harmony means. And yet we urge you to work for harmony, to attune yourselves harmoniously to the conditions of life: not to stick your elbows out, but to endeavour to see wisely the reason of certain conditions and then to adjust yourself mentally, spiritually and physically to these conditions.

The man and woman conscious only of religion as an intellectual conception would decide that to pray – to ask for angelic help and protection – is sentimental, emotional and unhelpful. We say that what humanity needs is to escape from intellectually sterility and open a simple heart and pray that it may hear the song of the angels! Not so very many centuries ago it was usual among the masses to look to a higher world, to look to those who had passed to a spiritual life, for guidance, for communion, for help. Only since the intellect has developed arrogance has man closed eyes and ears to the voice of those beyond the veil.

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But a great lesson is now being learned and the lesson is this: humanity is slowly and painfully realising the difference between the Unreal and the Real. Religion has been cast away, rejected, not only by the deeper thinkers but by the ordinary citizen. We speak of the shell of religion and not of true religion. We say the world rejects religion. Certain countries have for some years been struggling from darkness into the light and have thrown off the bondage of formal religion. Well-meaning people think that such men and women are Godless, but this is not true. Humanity through crucifixion is realising the arisen Christ, a Christ who cries out through their innermost for truth. Within every man lives Christ and although man on the earth plane has crucified Christ, out of crucifixion Christ still arises to cry to God, 'God, forgive them, for they know not what they do'.

Religion must be an expression of the truth within man's heart. Religion is not a form of words, neither ceremony nor ritual, but an expression of man's awareness of God, from within himself to without in the world. When a man recognises within himself the voice of truth, he must respond to that voice. This will apply to all at the present time. Confusion prevails in man's religious outlook, confusion as to the path he must take to help humanity. Some think this is the right way to help the world; some think another path should be followed. Some believe that spiritual service is the true way, because it is lasting and real. Others decide the spiritual way is illusory, pretty enough for those who like it, but not a man's job. Well we in the Spirit view things very differently. We are able to see reality because we have the advantage: we see the result of real or spiritual service to mankind. We also see the result of imaginary service of a material nature, which often enough leads to disappointment and confusion. True service to life is, and always has been, and always will be, a spiritual service.

You will question us about the lives of men and woman who have contributed valuable material service to men's minds as well as their bodies, to the material plane, yet knowing nothing about the spiritual service of which we speak. We say, in answer, that all lives that have truly served mankind are spiritual lives, show an awareness of God and the urge and the guidance of God. You may call this urge by any other name; you may call it love for one's fellowmen, or love of nature; you may call it a desire to see men and women living in better conditions. It does not matter; such service to the world is inspired by God and results from love in the man's heart.

What do we mean by love? We mean, in man's heart, the awareness of God. If a man experiences the emotion or the realisation of love, he according to the degree of his awareness, is expressing God; because God is the life of the Spirit, is the Spirit, is the love-urge in man. Without God there would be no man and no life. When the man becomes aware of a God-feeling, an urge to do something for his fellow, that results from love in him, or God in him. This, then, is the real thing; *this is reality*. The wise man's constant prayer is: *from the unreal lead me to the real*.

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The unreal sooner or later brings about its own destruction, disintegration. Do you understand? Material ways of thought, material pursuits of life are due to belief in the unreal. War is unreal. You will be, perhaps, amazed at this statement. It is true, my brethren, nevertheless. What you see on the outer plane appears real, but is an illusion, what the ancient teachers and yogi call *maya* – illusion ... of the unreal.

You who seek the counsel of the Spirit are seeking reality, praying to be led from the unreal to the real. The physical body, the material life, is also unreal. Many people say that *we* are unreal, imaginary; some even refer to the spirit people as ‘spooks’. They would be somewhat shocked if they could see themselves with *our* eyes and note how very much like ‘spooks’ they themselves look. The physical body is so loosely woven that it appears to the spirit people as a patch of mist or fog. A spirit man can walk right through you. You look like so many shadows. You are not as real as you think – at least your bodies – and even your future lacks reality. This desk at which I stand would be no obstruction to me at all. Understand that the world that seems so solid is merely illusory, transient.

The real is that which transcends matter and can be withdrawn from matter, physical matter; and then matter crumbles and decays. There is, then, no substance in it – it dissolves; but that which is withdrawn is the real and eternal. It continues. If it be the soul of man it continues to know happiness, to enjoy the beauties of the spirit and the harmony of the spirit homes. It continues even beyond the astral world; it aspires to and reaches the heaven world and to the celestial planes. Not only this, it continues to live on through eons of time. That which lives after death is the real *you*, the real man; and what you can do here and now is to utilise all the means placed before you to encourage or feed the real part of you, the spiritual part, which knows love, is aware of good, and which cannot die.

The next time you hear derisive remarks about spirit life and the worlds which interpenetrate your earth matter, remember that the earth conditions are actually unreal. Where does this bring us? The logical conclusion is that for the good of humanity all must be organised on a spiritual basis. Everything founded upon a non-spiritual basis leads to one end – to wars and destruction – and out of that experience man learns a painful lesson, which he is likely to forget until that lesson is repeated again and again. Jesus the Christ so painfully told the world that you cannot sow tares and reap wheat. Whatever a man soweth he must eventually reap. Sow in the material world or from a material mind and you reap a devastating harvest. Sow seeds of distrust and greed and selfishness or injustice and you will reap exactly what you sow. We speak with great emphasis and great feeling. It is you, the people, who must awake and realise, must recognise, the grave responsibility which is yours: you must pray to be led from the unreal to the real. You are likely to blame those men and women who are set in authority over you. Perhaps you cannot see the wood for the trees. Remember *your* own responsibilities particularly in what you are pleased to call your democratic nations. *You* and *you* alone are responsible for your Governments, your wars and all the sorrows of the world.

You will not like these words, but we beg you to think over these things. Humanity is crying out for salvation, for help, for healing, even for peace. How can these things be given except

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man recognise the real things and distinguish them from the unreal? There can be no compromise: man or nation, each reaps exactly what it sows. There is a karma of the individual, a karma of the race. If you would truly serve suffering humanity, this very instant begin to sift the wheat from the tares, try to see what is real in life, to feel reality and truth. Discard that which is unreal, which must lead to destruction, to wars and to sorrow. Every one of you can help the world today by attuning yourselves to the Spirit, by attuning your lives to the great and beloved Master, the Christ. No word in the teachings of Christ will ever bring the world to war. The Sermon on the Mount should be emblazoned in golden letters in every House of Religion all over your English-speaking countries. The Sermon on the Mount should be the basis of all national life; should be the guidance of all Governments. There stands the real, the eternal, the teaching of the King of Kings. Jesus said, '*Love one another*'. Then if you love, bind the wounds of the suffering, help all who struggle in darkness, live to bring about the great realisation amongst men that Christ is the real, the eternal. He is the way; He is the truth; He is the life. Christmas – will you celebrate this as a real Christ-Mass in your hearts, and work, work, work to help humanity to the light?

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:

masters, peace, balance, going with the flow, spirits, imagination, delusion, guides, aura, etheric body, spirit world, reincarnation, life after death, cause and effect, karma