

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

A268 Sunday Address 7th November 1954 St Mary Abbots Place, London
Remembrance Sunday Service

Text: a typescript, in foolscap format. Though a top copy, it may not be the original typescript, but a later 'good copy' – though its readings seem better than some other versions which might compete for the title 'original'. In style it does not match other scripts from the period. The title on the typescript is just 'Armistice Sunday address'; the title, 'God moves in a mysterious way' has been added for the present project.

Context: with the date at the top there is no doubt about this script and the service it records. The quotation from the hymn just possibly indicates one of the hymns from the service, but there is no other indication of the rest of the service. There is a communion.

General Notes: the address contains a very clear and direct instruction about how to see ourselves on earth and our connection with the real world (the sentence beginning 'That whilst you are in a physical body' in the paragraph beginning 'What do we mean by this?') The general burden of the address is that behind suffering there always lies progress. 'Better conditions in life are always the result of past suffering.' In this respect it is about the meaning of war. It is also about the creative power of imagination. 'If you had no imagination you would be clots' says White Eagle – meaning neither blood clots nor idiots, but beings lacking in any intelligence, clods of earth (there might be a stenographer error here). There is then a very beautiful passage about seeing the physical chapel at St Mary Abbots Place as vast and full of saints and Elder Brethren. White Eagle promotes imagination as the way to see into the world beyond, and offers the intriguing phrase about himself and those with him, 'We have crossed the bridge of the white ether'. This introduces a section of extraordinary power about the true life, including one free of the slaying of animals. The final prayer of the address is the abolition of cruelty in any form – and the communion reinforces this message.

References: 'the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life' is 2 Corinthians 3 : 6. The episode of Thomas doubting the resurrection until he had physical proof is from John 20 : 24-29. 'God said, let there be light' is Genesis 1 : 3; there are further references to the creation story in Genesis 1 later, e.g. 'And God saw that it was good', verse 31. 'God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform' is the first line of William Cowper's poem written in 1774 and frequently sung at St Mary Abbots Place. 'they who have come out of great tribulation and whose garments are washed whiter than snow' is primarily a quotation of Revelation 7 : 14 although 'whiter than snow' borrows from the biblical account of the Transfiguration (and many other references beside, in the Bible). White Eagle correctly attributes this to St John, although other versions of this address wrongly alter this to Jesus. White Eagle adduces, finally, the injunction to 'love one another', which resounds out of the whole of St John's Gospel and Epistles. The phrase 'there is no thing which God as ever hated' is one White Eagle uses elsewhere, but it does not appear to be a quotation.

White Eagle's Address:

Beloved brethren here assembled, we come to bring you a message from the world of spirit. Man lives on earth in a very material world today, much more so than in past ages, for there was a time on earth when men were indeed conscious of the world of spirit and those who came to the earth from that world to help forward the life of humanity. But since those days man has sunk very low in physical matter, and with the development of the mental body man's intellect has become so strong as almost to kill the spirit, although man has been given the guidance in the Christian Bible about following the spirit. He has been reminded that the letter killeth but the spirit giveth life.

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Now, beloved brethren, you meet in this service tonight for one purpose, and this purpose is to remember past suffering, to remember those of your dear ones who left you to go forth into a world of battle. Many there are on this earth today who think that their dear ones are no more. Some do not know if there is a life after death; they faintly hope that there may be something but of this fact they cannot be sure. There are others who believe that there is a life beyond the grave but that those who pass into that life are removed completely from all contact with the earth plane. They still have a hope that their love may be able to commune with them in certain circumstances and conditions. There are many of you here in this service tonight who have been blest indeed, for you have found a pearl of great price, a truth which has given you that assurance, that certainty within your heart, that loved ones who have passed onwards are not very far removed. You have learnt that in love there is no separation. In spirit there is no separation, but naturally many people long, like Thomas did, to put his fingers in the nail prints of the physical body, to thrust his hand into the side which was pierced by the sword. These dear people long to have physical contact with their loved ones and we cannot blame them, for we understand that longing to touch the hand which has gone and to see the vacant chair filled. We long to feel their touch, you will say. Yes, we know, we know that longing – but, dear ones, there is an even better way than holding on to the physical body because, remember, the physical body is merely a dress. This you will fully appreciate when you come to shed your present dress. You dear people do not mind adorning yourselves in new clothes. You feel rather pleased to have some fresh clothes. When your old ones are tired you send them away, but when it comes to the physical clothing, a clothing of flesh, however old and decrepit it is you still long to keep it with you.

Now this is a bridge which man has to cross. We do not mean a bridge from your world to our world. We do not mean a bridge which you cross by death. We mean a bridge which you cross in full consciousness while you are on earth.

What do we mean by this? That whilst you are in a physical body and in a very material world you have to strive to realise that you are not your body: you are a spirit being clothed, for a time, in a certain body – but you can look beyond that clothing and that material life into a much finer world, a world which is quite as real and solid as the physical matter, but a world composed of much finer, more sensitive matter. This can be realised by constant endeavour to believe and accept this scientific truth that there are other worlds in which man, the son of God, can live. You are bound by your intellect and your body, but when you turn to the deep, holy sanctuary which is within your soul, the place where God resides, Christ the Son of God your Creator resides as a jewel within; when you seek for this holy communion, then you receive a manifestation, a demonstration, not through a physical body but through a spiritual power which is far more convincing than a physical body. When you contact that spirit power you are convinced, you *know*, that you are an eternal being; that all men are the same, and that there is a state of life beyond the present house of flesh, a world of beauty, of ever-unfolding glory and opportunity – for there those souls who have shed their old dress and have let go their contact and their longing for physical matter find themselves in this world of beauty and harmony and brotherhood of the spirit. They find that they have companions who understand their innermost needs, and that these companions will guide

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them to the exact place where they will find happiness, not in singing psalms all day, not in lying about, doing nothing, but in being engaged in some study or pursuit which is after their own heart.

Those loved ones have left the earth, being sacrificed in a great war and – we are going to say – sacrificed by the ignorance of the world: they who have laid down their lives, all their young life and their older life, for the rest of the world, find a particular comfort and happiness in our world. Now make no mistake about this: sacrifice of the individual, self-sacrifice, always, always brings great blessing to the soul. It wipes out so much, what you would call, sin. Do remember that our Creator is All-Love, and if man on earth is ignorant and stupid and creates conditions of ignorance, suffering and pain, the Great White Spirit looks upon His children with deep, deep compassion, and no one innocently suffers because the so-called innocent sufferers are gathered into the heart, the great heart of love.

These conditions of war that come to the earth plane, although they are brought about by ignorance and stupidity, they are turned to good effect. You must not forget this – that your loved ones have not sacrificed in vain although some people seem to think they have. With great wars such as you in your lifetime have seen there comes a corresponding push forward in the evolution of mankind. Good comes out of evil. It is difficult to accept this, but it is an age-old truth that God bringeth good out of evil – evil which is, when rightly understood, ignorance, chaos, darkness; and out of chaos and darkness, ‘God said; “Let there be light” and there was light’. So out of ignorance and darkness is born the other side of ignorance and darkness which is good and light. Even today the people living on earth are beginning to reap even material recompense from the sufferings of the past wars.

God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform – and all the time there is continuing a spiritual evolution, a spiritual growth – and not only a spiritual growth in man but also a mental growth, a development. Better conditions of life are the result of past suffering. Never forget this, and if you doubt our words just quietly look back through the centuries – even through the past century – and compare the conditions of the mass of people today with those of the past. There may perhaps have been a quieter, more contented life in a way than there is today, but there was not that desire and urge for knowledge and progress. We who look down upon your earth, we see the wonderful growth which has taken place in the world during quite a few years, and see the stirrings in man’s soul of spiritual development, just a little. We see this awakening to invisible things and a coming knowledge that things are not what they seem, that behind all life is thought and imagination.

If you had no imagination you would be clots. You must have imagination before there is creation. Think of the beginning. God created the world. Even in your simple Bible story you read the words, ‘God created the earth and God saw that His creation was good’. God held in His mind the whole of creation. Behind physical matter, behind human life, is God thought, and man cannot move outside the circle of God’s thought. Man is held in the thought of God. Imagination, which is so little understood, is the doorway into our world, the higher ethers, the finer and higher etheric world – and the key which unlocks that door is hanging in man’s

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heart. It is through love, the love of God, love of all that is good, love of truth, of wisdom, love of light, love of beauty, that the key which unlocks the door of imagination, which takes man into that world of spirit, that world of the higher ether.

We do want to bring home to you in this service tonight that you are not alone here. You look around you and you see a small building, an edifice of earthly matter, and you think you are confined in this small building – but if in your love for the spiritual things of life and the spiritual companions, you will insert the key into your imagination – let your imagination work, and watch – you will see that you are in a vast building which is filled with shining forms, the saints, the brethren of the Great White Light. These are they who came out of great tribulation and whose garments are washed whiter than snow. The Master, St John, who gave you these words did not speak idly. He spoke from his spirit and he spoke truth.

We speak to you from the spirit life. We are not limited or bound as you are by the flesh. We have crossed the bridge of the white ether. We come back to tell you that there is no death and that your loved ones are here, close, very close beside you. Those who can lift up their hearts and open the door of their imagination will see this glorious shining host. They come to reassure you, to love you and to help you to traverse the path of life which will lead you, without fail, into a life of infinite beauty not only in the spirit life in the higher ethers but *here*, whilst you are enclosed in a body of flesh. These dear ones would say to you, through our words: Look out upon life as a vast brotherhood; remember that all humans are sons of God, that all animals are part of the human family and are part of God. They are your brethren as surely as you are brothers and sisters of each other. The flowers, the birds and all nature is in this vast family, and it is the work of man to love all creation – not to love himself alone and wantonly to hurt and destroy the other kingdoms of life. We say to you, brethren, look to the time when man lives on the fruits of the earth and the breath of God and the spiritual rays which fall upon him from those higher, heavenly states of life; for whilst man sheds the blood of his brother animal he must shed his own blood too.

This is the message from our world; and if you would remember, dear ones, on this Day of Remembrance, then remember the great need there is in your world to abolish cruelty. Cruelty, the Master has said, is one of the greatest sins man commits, cruelty to brother man, cruelty to brother animal, cruelty to the nature kingdoms. Let no man slay his brother in any of the kingdoms. This, we know, will bring many arguments, many reasons why it cannot be avoided, but it doesn't alter the divine truth that life is holy, is the breath of God; and as God gives life no man has the right to take life, and certainly not his own life in any form.

Let us, on this Day of Remembrance of the sacrifices of loved ones, dedicate ourselves, all of us, to the work of abolishing cruelty on this earth and bringing into the lives of all God's creatures love and peace and goodwill. There can be no compromise with the divine truth, and Jesus said, 'love one another, love all things which God has created, for there is no thing which God has ever hated'.

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Now, dear ones, with the great throng of Shining Spirits all around and the symbol in the midst of this Lodge, the Cross of Light encircled by Light and in the centre of the Cross the Rose, which will one day bloom in the heart of every soul – see this symbol and in the centre of the Rose the beloved Lord of this earth, the Lord Christ. In his presence let there be complete stillness and silence, in remembrance of all the saints and servers and those who have sacrificed their lives to help forward the spiritual awakening of all mankind.

Silence...

And the great and glorious figure of the Lord Christ holds in his hands the bread and the cup of wine, symbols of life. The bread is the symbol of the whole of creation, the creation of the body. My body... take it and share the life with me...

Take, drink, from the cup. The cup of wine, of my spirit...

Remember to walk your way through life in the full consciousness that in body and spirit we are one. All men are one. You cannot injure any of God's creatures without injuring yourself. You cannot love and give kindness to any of God's children without receiving love and kindness yourself. This is the gospel of the At-one-ment.

May the peace of the love of God bless you and give you the vision glorious.

Amen. Amen. 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:

remembrance, armistice, reincarnation, rebirth, spiritual contact, heaven world, bridge to the world of light, spirit world, inner vision, intuition, enlightenment, positive thought, creativity