

The Happiest New Year

A155 Sunday Address 6th January 1946 St Mary Abbots Place, London New Year 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*, February 1946, which gives the date as well as the title.

Context: reopening service for the new year.

General Notes: White Eagle's opening remarks remind us this was the first year since at least 1939 when the New Year time could be enjoyed without thoughts of war – though members of the congregation could be battling loss or, for that matter, have had most joyful reunions. White Eagle, in the course of the address, makes a most intriguing statement when he says that in 1939 the world actually desired conflict: 'the weaker souls amongst you saw no beauty, no brotherhood, no love on earth'. The next remarks, about thought preceding action, are strangely reminiscent of Minesta's response to the editor of *Psychic News*, just before the war, who had argued that prayer was useless. *References:* the phrase 'As a man thinketh so he is; and as a man desireth so he receives' is a strange collation of Proverbs 23 : 7 with the title of James Allen's book *As a Man Thinketh*, published in 1903.

White Eagle's Address:

Beloved brethren: this is the first service held in this church in the New Year. Many of you have reason to look back on the old year with mixed feelings, for many have passed through great sorrow, loss, separation. Others have experienced intense joy in reunion. Whatever your memories of the past year you now stand at the threshold of a fresh opportunity and you will recognise a new hope deep within your soul. Indeed this renewal of hope is so strong in men and women that as soon as a New Year dawns people wish each other a happy New Year. Usually by a happy New Year you people mean a year which satisfies what are usually earthly desires – but not always; because underlying your good wishes to others lies a hope that they will realise a happiness superior to worldly happiness.

But then – what is happiness? Does happiness consist solely of gratification of the earthly senses? This cannot be so, because many souls are happy who can lay no claim to material advantages but can reach a spiritual joy. So we deduce that true happiness originates from the soul and from the spirit, and in order to attain happiness the person must reach upward and aspire to heavenly conditions. Nevertheless the majority of men and woman live for material ends, proving blind and deaf to the spiritual worlds about them and forgetting that in God man lives, moves and has his being. Indeed most people conceive God as a Being remote from everyday life. This being so, they are cut off from that higher self which is theirs. We say to you, our brethren, that the way to happiness is by contact through the higher self with the Supreme Being, the Creator.

If you could see your whole self you would be overwhelmed with astonishment. When you look at yourself in a mirror you see a physical body possessing certain characteristics. You think that body is yourself. When that body sickens and dies you think that will be the end of yourself. If you could see with the vision of your soul, through the eyes of your celestial body (as the great St. Paul called it), you would see that you comprise not only a physical body, but a magnificent form which, seen from the spirit planes of life, appears as a star of great light and radiance; and you would see at the base of this star of radiance a small, dark triangle. This small, dark triangle is your physical body, your physical being, but above and around it

The Happiest New Year

A155 Sunday Address 6th January 1946 St Mary Abbots Place, London New Year Service

is this radiant light. You will say – I can hear it coming now from your thoughts – ‘Does this apply to every man and every woman, even those who are cruel and wicked?’ Yes, it applies to every man and woman – all are sons and daughters of the one Supreme Creator. All contain within themselves the same potentialities. Every soul born of man has an opportunity to aspire and rise to the apex of the star which surrounds him. In that star are the planes of life concentrated upon one central, focal point, man: man's mind, his soul, and even his body. Within man lies the power to reach out to those realms of spiritual life and wisdom and knowledge.

It is a great mistake to think that everything depends upon the physical brain. It would be more true to say that all knowledge and all wisdom depend upon the heart or the love which can dwell within man's heart. That is the focal point, as can be seen in the lives of saints, sages, seers, teachers and saviours of all ages – the simple-hearted who know divine love and who lived as true brothers in this world of darkness. These are they who have within their grasp the keys of heaven.

Now, my brethren, in this star (which is a form living in the etheric world and yet reaching to the heaven worlds) are degrees of planes of consciousness or understanding. Immediately above the physical brain, the physical life, is what is known as the etheric or soul-world; it is to this world that men pass when the physical body dies and disintegrates. This soul-world is composed of men's thoughts and desires and hopes, and in this world the simple and clean souls of earth find their inmost thoughts and desires made manifest. You are told that the next world is real and solid to those who inhabit it. Indeed, it is more real than your physical world; indeed, my brethren, it is more enduring, because it is made of a substance which is nearer the eternal than physical substance. These things which we are telling you are spiritually scientific facts which your physical scientists will in due course discover. At the present time they have only been revealed to – shall we say – the occultist or the spiritually inclined student. This etheric world is the world of the soul, the world to which you will pass when you leave your physical body. It is the world from which we have all come. It is the world from which the present speaker comes and therefore he can speak of that which he knows. From this soul world, this etheric world, you whilst in your physical body may draw soul substance which clothes your spirit and which finds manifestation in physical matter. We mean that as you aspire, as you seek to live and think spiritually of those glorious things of the soul world, so you will be able to re-create your physical life. We are telling you, my brethren, that within your own heart (which is the centre of your being) lies the God-creative power; and that as you think and aspire and desire so you receive in the physical life those things which you have created for yourselves.

It may not be acceptable, it may not be very palatable when we say that your world desired conflict. The weaker souls amongst you saw no beauty, no brotherhood, no love on earth. They only saw competition, greed, selfishness, a fight for self-possession. The weaker souls accepted this situation and war came, drawn to the earth from the desires and thoughts of its people.

The Happiest New Year

A155 Sunday Address 6th January 1946 St Mary Abbots Place, London New Year Service

Here is *your* opportunity in this New Year to discard thoughts of weakness and hopelessness and fear and in their place establish thoughts of brotherhood and goodwill, an ideal of a perfect life established for all peoples. You are creating by this means the kind of world that you all hope to see established. You will say, 'But is thought any good without action?' We reply to that question by stating that thought created the world. Thought is the most powerful force which man uses in this world. Before anything is made it has to be thought about or planned, and then created or manufactured. But the thought precedes all manifestation and manifestation comes about as a result of thought. *As a man thinketh so he is; and as a man desireth so he receives.*

But we must not forget one vital truth. This is that every person must aspire to pure thought, selfless thought, God thought. Every person must see the vision of a Creator, just, perfect and true, must attune himself to that Creator and offer himself as a channel through which the divine force enters the world. Then man is distributing in his particular aura that soul-substance which the world needs to create the conditions of brotherhood and perfection on earth.

This is our New Year's message and our New Year's hope for you and for all mankind: that you will take the opportunity which is being presented to you once again. You will commence by your attunement to all those things which are true, good, beautiful and God-like; you will strive to create in your own life those vibrations which alone can draw heavenly conditions to the world.

Some of you are still puzzled about what is called 'imagination', particularly when you are thinking of heavenly things and the spiritual world. You wonder sometimes if what you see in your meditations and in your contemplations of beauty is merely the result of imagination. The worldly man does not know the meaning of the word. Anything which you strongly imagine, you begin to create in soul-substance. Man lives in three main planes: the physical, the soul and the spirit; and when man creates in his mind or in his imagination he is creating *actual form* in the soul-world. Imagination is the doorway, the key into the soul-world. Imagination is the doorway, the key into the soul-world. What you imagine to be there is there and is very solid and enduring. There are many, many souls who have when they pass away from the physical body into the next world find themselves surrounded by the creations of their own thoughts. The world of the soul is the world which man has externalised for himself by his thoughts and desires and his imagination. A lurid imagination creates a lurid soul-world. A beautiful imagination creates a beautiful soul-world - and by the word 'beautiful' we mean a godly imagination, and not a distorted, crude, untrue kind of beauty. The true beauty is created by pure thought, lovely thought, lovely imagination. Thus are you now at this very moment creating your etheric, your soul-world, the world in which you will live when you have passed away from the physical body.

We have one more thought to pass on. Before you is a magnificent opportunity to help mankind. This is the way in which you can accept and make use of that opportunity. Look out into the world, upon your fellows - your brothers and sisters - and look for the God in them. Look for the good in all things and in all presentations of spiritual truth. We do not tell you

The Happiest New Year

A155 Sunday Address 6th January 1946 St Mary Abbots Place, London New Year Service

that in this place and in this teaching you will find the only truth, but only that you will find here an aspect of truth which may be helpful. It may even be that truth you have been seeking all your life, or it may not, but somewhere a presentation of truth is waiting for every living soul. Remember this, my friends, particularly when the ignorant jeer and criticise and make fun of those people who are conveying to the world some aspect of God's truth. Look for it everywhere and you will find it. If you turn your back upon the truth now being given to the world through many channels you will be missing a great opportunity.

In the years immediately before us there will be many such presentations coming through unorthodox channels. Many of these channels are numbered among those people who call themselves Spiritualists. The world may not be ready to understand what lies behind the simple manifestations from the world of spirit, but the wise man will be on the alert and will listen with the patience to the messages which are coming through certain so-called spiritualistic channels. We do not say that this is the whole or the only truth. But there are jewels being scattered upon the earth. It is for men and women to find these jewels, and they will only find them by being themselves simple, humble and loving. Great teachers have drawn very close, and a way is being made for them to come and help mankind. God never leaves mankind without a witness and according to the need and maturity of the people the messengers come. Look, my friends to the unorthodox channels and there you will find the messages of truth. The great world teacher known as the Son of God came to earth through an unorthodox channel and was ignored and spurned by the church and the law of His day. Truth shines through the simple, the ordinary folk, but it takes a God in the ordinary man and woman to recognise the God in his companion.

We pray, beloved brethren, that you may reach out for these jewels of truth which God sends to all those who love Him and in recognising and practising these rays of heavenly truth in everyday life you will indeed be blessed with a happy, a happier, the happiest New Year that you have ever known in your present incarnation.

The blessing of heaven be in your hearts. And go forth to serve the world of men, the world of the soul and the world of God and then indeed you will be known by the light of the star which is your true nature and your whole universe.

God bless you. God bless you; and may you be happy.

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:

rebirth, renewal, life after death, spirit world, heaven world, world of light, etheric planes, community, positive thought, power of thought, intuition, creativity, spiritualism