

# The Brotherly Way

A145 Sunday Address 4th March 1945 St Mary Abbots Place, London Sunday Service

*The date of this address is conjectural (see below), while the text is as issued in the magazine Angelus after it was given, apart from correction of errors*

*Text: from Angelus, April 1945*

*Context:* there are two candidates for an address on the first Sunday in March 1945: this one, and the one entitled 'In his own Image' which was printed in the following month's *Angelus*. For arguments about the latter, see that address itself, here archived against the date 2 July 1944. The reason for choosing this address for the date in question is the reference in the second paragraph to the newly passed-on organist. For the identity of the organist, Reginald Botcherby, Brother John, see the address of 4 February; he passed on 2 February. Published in April, this address cannot have been given later than early March, so the date seems almost certain. The member of the congregation who gave flowers for the altar in memory of her daughter has not yielded to identification.

*General Notes:* White Eagle seems to dive straight into his topic: it seems more likely that an opening greeting has simply been dropped from this address. Many addresses and teachings are devoted to this theme of brotherhood: what this one adds most significantly, from the very beginning, is that brotherhood is inseparable from spirit communion: that our relationship with those in higher worlds is intrinsic to the experience of brotherliness. White Eagle also gives a historical view of the brotherhood tradition, implying that our awareness of brotherhood also must extend forward and back.

*References:* the injunction, 'Love one another' comes from Jesus more than once but most strongly and clearly in John 13 : 34. The contrast between the narrow way, and the broad path to destruction, is from Matthew 7 : 13-14.

*Historical note:* in March/April 1945 peace, and victory, were starting to seem possible. Opposite the start of this address in *Angelus* is an editorial item beginning 'We too at the Lodge make our plans for the bright years'.

## White Eagle's Address:

A great deal is being said today about the brotherhood of man. Yet how often does man misinterpret the meaning of brotherhood! When we go to the inner planes we find that all life is built upon harmony, brotherhood and union. We would therefore speak today about brotherhood and brotherhoods for all through the ages and in almost every religion is to be found an inner brotherhood upon the truths of which the exoteric teaching given forth to the people is based, and this Lodge is no exception to the rule.

We have some serious things to say about brotherhood. A much loved figure used to sit at the organ in this church. This figure will not be seen again for a long time, perhaps, on this earth, but some may see him again with the eyes of the spirit and be inspired with affection and love.

Some flowers upon this altar – beautiful emblems of the springtide – are given by a loving mother in memory of her daughter. The mother can no longer see the form of her daughter; she cannot depend upon the physical body to contact her; so she, like ourselves, has to resort to something else. You will know what this something is? Yes; it is the human spirit which

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has remained in harmony with the loved one who has left this earth, because a common bond of love still holds between spirit and spirit.

It is important for all to realise that we contact the spirit of our brother only through our own spirit. Brotherhood, then, is the essence of spiritual life. This is brought home very definitely to every soul who leaves the physical body and passes into the realms of spirit. The soul finds that it does not necessarily have to speak its thoughts. For instance, the spirit newly born in the spirit life may find itself sitting or reclining on a grassy bank, or in a beautiful garden. Suddenly someone will join him, a guide or friend of former years. No words are spoken, and yet the guide or the more advanced spirit seems to speak silently and the new arrival is amazed that his friend can read his thoughts and is able to think heart to heart, spirit to spirit with him. There can be no sham or deception on the plane of spirit. On the earth most of life is deceptive; it is not usual for people to speak from their spirit, not usual for people to listen-in to their innermost spirit. A wall of illusion or sham is build up on the physical plane and as the years pass the more does illusion widen the breach between brother man and brother man, until finally the world lies in chaos.

Some of you will cry at this. 'How ever is the world going to be straightened out?' Some think that order will come about through political and social changes. Is not this rather like putting a roof on a house before the walls are complete? Better to start with the foundation first. This is why we have a look back to the very beginning of time to get an insight into what makes a foundation for life. Immediately the question will come, 'Well, supposing the foundation was truly laid at the beginning, what has gone wrong since?'

We answer that although man was created in the image of God, perfect, he was endowed with two aspects, a higher and a lower. The lower aspect feels the pull of earth life; it appears to that aspect that the selfish or material way will prove the quicker, easier and more comfortable. As a result, the less fortunate suffer because of the oppression of the so-called fortunate people. Naturally this experience causes the less fortunate person to rebel and so the lowest is brought out in him also, resulting in a condition of chaos which goes from bad to worse, unless a sufficient number of faithful and true brothers decide to stand firm and refuse to be dragged down by the tempting of the lower self. These few will faithfully and steadily carry on this mortal life with their hearts open to the glory of the inflowing divine love and responsive to the guidance of inspiration of the angels in the heavens.

If the world is to enter upon a golden age, which it does periodically, there must be sufficient true brethren in this present age of Aquarius to raise its vibrations. When man recognises his true self and is able to respond to the vibrations of the life, there will be some hope for the brotherhood of man. When man commences to talk to his immediate neighbour as a true brother, heart to heart, spirit to spirit, the golden age will be near. You who are familiar with spirit communion will understand this spirit of brotherhood; you will understand that when you, in the quietness of your inner sanctuary, talk silently to your guide or your beloved spirit, you yourself experience the true brotherhood of life.

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This is no new lesson. It was given by the Lord Christ. In His own lovely way He taught truth in three words: 'Love one another'. The truth of life is so simple that man refuses to believe it. Those of you who are students and familiar with the Grail story, know that right from the beginning upon this planet there was formed a perfect Brotherhood – Father, Mother, Son – the three-in-one and the one-in-three. Round the Throne supporting the three essential chairs of the Lodge are the seven holy angels. Thus was formed in the beginning the perfect Lodge, the perfect Brotherhood.

All down the ages, far before man of the present day has traced history, there have always been these hidden Lodges, these secret Brotherhoods. Why were they kept secret? In some cases because the equilibrium of the world was so disturbed through selfishness that the Brotherhoods had to withdraw to the lonely places of the earth. From their mountain caves they sent forth messengers into the world teaching truth of life. But the crowd would mock, jeer and laugh and talk of the impracticability of spiritual brotherhood, saying, 'Oh we have to be practical in this world'.

Such people as this are the most impractical among us because they cannot see that all progress and happiness and well-being must be built upon a spiritual foundation. Ancient brotherhoods existed in Atlantis and in the lost continents in the Pacific, and later on in South America, later migrating across the world to Egypt, to China, to the Himalayas and from there across to Britain. All races seem to preserve some record of the brotherhood that once existed in the midst. Such light on religion as the ordinary people possessed was based upon the teaching of this true brotherhood. Every soul knows within that if you love anyone you cannot bear to see him suffer: you will suffer also. Therefore you cannot inflict hurt on another. This is the meaning of love.

You may have heard of ancient ceremonies which took place in the holy White Brotherhood. They were enacted within the Lodge for the neophyte or the aspirant to undergo or to witness. Such mysteries can only be understood by the innermost spirit of man. Forms and ceremonies may be witnessed but mean nothing unless the heart of the aspirant is awakened and quickened to the brotherhood of spirit. In Britain the Arthurian records are regarded as mere legends by the student who, if unversed in the arts of the spirit, fails to grasp the esoteric or the inner meaning for which the brotherhood of the Holy Grail lived. The stories of the knights (or Brethren) going forth on a search for the Holy Grail tell of the search of every true brother. For within every soul is a divine urge to find the Holy Grail, which means the secret of all happiness, the secret which is simple brotherhood. For first comes a reunion of one's spirit with those who are nearest and dearest who are assembled in the Lodge – which of course means the home, for a Brotherhood Lodge is ever symbolic of the perfect home. When a brother is thus reunited with his brothers at his left and right hands, then the holy Lodge or home becomes perfected: a Lodge perfect, just and true.

My brethren, with this aspiration in the heart of every brother, there will come, as in former days, Lodges of true White Brethren all over the world.

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We have not to go very far back in our own life to remember such a Lodge or home. For we ourselves can remember a life spent as an Indian chief in a Lodge of the White Eagle. Around were all our people, brothers and sisters in the Lodge, sharers in the happiness of the true family. You will say, 'Oh, but even in families there are differences'. Yes, perhaps differences of opinion on the outer plane; but in a perfect family there is true love, spirit to spirit, heart to heart. Only when the soul strays away from the supreme Light, the influence of the Divine Love does disruption manifest.

Do you begin to understand now, my brethren, why the Christian teaching tells us there is only one way, and that is the narrow, straight way? and why we are told that the broad way leadeth to destruction? The broad way looks so easy and is followed by the crowd. Only the few climb the narrow steep path which leads to the divine altar, meekly, quietly setting the lower self on one side.

People will say, 'You do not understand when you say such things. You do not have to live in the times that we live in today'.

We are telling you of fundamentals; until the fundamental law of life is put into practice there cannot come any kind of peace or perfection in the world. We come back to our own beloved little Lodge – the Lodge of the White Eagle. The white eagle is a symbol which means 'a messenger' from spiritual spheres, a messenger from the heights. In this Lodge brethren have the opportunity of learning fundamental truths and the opportunity of putting them into practice. Every member and every initiated brother in this Lodge has therefore a responsibility. We welcome you; we love you, every one; but every one, according to the divine law of life, has to undergo tests. There must be a testing of all true brothers; read the records of any brotherhood of the past – masonic or [that of] the Holy Grail. All are the same: before the brother is admitted to the inner Lodge he has to give the password. This password is spoken by the lips on your earth, but in the spirit world the password is pronounced in the heart. Everyone who desires to be a brother has to learn that password, which is not only a spoken word but a spiritual something which is *lived*, which is expressed in the life; and is then passed round from brother to brother when the work is in progress in the Lodge.

Beloved, we speak in great love, with tenderness and gentleness when we ask you to remember that if you are accepted here you have an obligation, a responsibility as to how you individually react in the outer world of men; and how you, as an individual, react to those who come to you in search of truth. A thoughtless word, an unkind criticism – such things can be like blows to those in need. To the nearest and dearest of you in this Lodge the Chief makes an appeal to treat every soul who comes here with love and understanding and gentleness, sympathy and courtesy. To those present for the first time, we ask you to be patient and quietly wait and watch. You too are being tested (oh no, not by us: the cosmic law is applied and every soul is tested). You may have to wait before you learn the password, which is tolerance and patience and love, before you can find entry and feel at one here. For such an at-one-ment is true brotherhood and this is what we stand for and what we are trying

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to bring first of all into this holy sanctuary. From here may it radiate out into the world, so that mankind will find it easier to respond to the higher instead of the lower self.

Beloved, before we leave, will you raise your spirits in aspiration and behold in the heavens the one central figure, the Grand Master Who is the Son of our Creator, Father–Mother God, Who is the Christ. Around Him are gathered all true brethren, all the saints and saviours and teachers of all time, watching, brooding over you and over the world. When in doubt or fear or anguish, look up to this great Company; and although you may not actually see them, you will most certainly feel in your heart a peace, a light and an urge towards actions of selflessness and true brotherhood. Never mind the hurts and the kicks: they will fall away without harming you, so long as your whole being is centred upon the cosmic Christ. Christ is the home from which you have come forth and Christ is the home to which every spirit will return. But unless an effort is made to reach towards light and harmony there will be painful episodes during the physical life.

Resign all to the supreme Chief, the Grand Master of the Lodge ruling this earth planet; and then you will be well on the road to becoming a true and accepted brother of the Great White 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:*

*community, communion, spiritual contact, society, social problems, higher self, new age, ancient civilisations, ancient faiths, King Arthur, initiation, masters*