

The Golden City

A377 Sunday Address 14th November 1965 St Mary Abbots Place, London
Remembrance Service

Text: typescript by MB, a blue carbon with no contemporary markings. The address was printed in *Stella Polaris* a year later (October-November 1966) with the simple title 'Remembrance Message'. It has been entitled 'The Golden City' for the present project.

Context: MB records the first hymn as no. 202, 'For all the Saints'. Minesta then gave an invocation, described again as 'recorded separately'. The reading was from Revelation 21 : 1-5 and 26, and 22 : 1-2 pp. 103-4. After the familiar start of 'And I saw a new heaven and a new earth' the added verses speak of 'the glory and honour of the nations' and the 'pure river of the water of life'. The second hymn was no. 289, 'For those we love within the veil'. After the prayers the choir offered the psalm, 'The Lord is my Shepherd' (no. 23). It's not clear which setting was chosen, but MB once again describes it as 'beautifully rendered'. Brother Faithful's words at the end are again recorded here, and he announced 'These things shall be' (312) as the final hymn. Minesta gave a benediction, recorded elsewhere, and the service ended with the Lodge vesper. In the address, there seems to have been a silence of remembrance, marked here by a centre asterisk.

General notes: the opening words emphasise 'reunion' more than 'remembrance', but the latter then takes priority – with a very broad list of those who have given service. Ultimately, the dual meaning of the festival is noted. White Eagle is more than usually comprehensive in delineating all who suffer in time of war, and is unusually clear that the war just past was a conflict between the light and the darkness. He acknowledges the solemnity of the occasion, but asks that there be also a glimpse of joy, joy that we can see the glory behind it all. There is a thank you directly addressed to those who have passed on.

The communion is a little unusual in mentioning the Trinity. Along with the reference to the kiss ('grasping your hand and kissing your cheek'), we seem to be in the realm in which the Comforter comes, the time of Pentecost – maybe there is even a memory of Cathar ritual.

References: White Eagle almost immediately quotes from the reading, 'The tabernacle of God is with men' (Revelation 21 : 3). Those who 'shall not grow old' is a reminder of the Book of Common Prayer: 'they shall not grow old'. 'Except ye become as little children' is Matthew 18 : 3. 'Underneath are the everlasting arms' is Deuteronomy 33 : 27. 'All things work together for good' is Romans 8 : 28. 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God' is Matthew 22 : 37. 'Erect and clear-eyed' comes from the hymn sung second, 'For those we love within the veil'. 'Behold, I make all things new' is Revelation 21 : 5. Brother Faithful quotes from Isaiah 52 : 7: 'How beautiful are the feet....', a verse remembered perhaps from Handel's *Messiah*.

White Eagle's Remembrance Message:

Beloved, beloved children, brethren of this Lodge, and all brethren throughout the world, we bring to you the love and the blessing of the vast multitude of souls who have left the physical body in order to serve the spiritual, as well as the material, evolution of man.

Now, on this occasion, first of all we bring to you the vision of the shining hosts who are around you, because we want this service to be one of true reunion in spirit, and communion in spirit. Memories are aroused on such occasions of past events in the world which have caused so much soul, as well as physical, suffering. But let us lay aside all memories that are painful and look into the eternal light. So many people think that the eternal light only shines for man after the death of the physical body. But the eternal light is eternally shining; the spiritual light is eternally with man. Remember what our reading said: 'For the tabernacle of God is with man'. And man must commence to realize and to understand this power – this invisible power, but a very real power which is with him, with every living man and woman.

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We hope that during this service everyone present will feel this company from the spirit life. Now, we are so well aware that almost everyone in this congregation has lost a beloved friend or relative; everyone loses in the course of life a loved one. Now, at this time we want you particularly to recognize that it is only the physical body, like an outworn coat that has lost its usefulness, that you are missing. And you must think of these things, and you must hold fast to the truth that spirit is eternal, and the personality, the beloved personality, is always there. Life changes, the scenes of life change, this is true; but the basic, the essential life of man, the nature of the individual is eternal. And man has been given the qualities within himself, and the power, the gifts of the psyche, enabling him at will to make contact with spirit, and the spirit of loved ones. We want this to be made very clear to all friends now in this congregation, *the tabernacle of God is with man*. What you think habitually you become. If you habitually think along the lines of goodwill, of good thought, God thought, you draw nearer and nearer everyday nearer to your companions who dwell in the *light*, who dwell in God's land.

On this occasion we remember in our hearts, in our souls, we remember the courage, the steadfast courage of all the men and women who have served humanity, who have served in the great army, who were marching forward to overthrow darkness and evil. These men and women are for ever remembered and honoured, together with those who remained quietly in simple service in their homes, or in humble positions behind the scenes of political strife. All these people were in their own way sacrificial saints; the wives who were left alone, the sisters who were left without the companionship of loved brothers, the mothers who were heartbroken to see their sons go forth – perhaps never to see them physically again. We remember, we remember. And we remember the discipline, the suffering, the endurance of all men and women who were given hard and difficult tasks in the great experience of conflict of good over evil, of light and truth over darkness and ignorance.

Now, the most important contact of this reunion and remembrance service is a contact first and foremost with God, the Source of all life, the source of the Plan. This may be difficult for any of us to understand at present, but you must, my brethren, have confidence in the Source of life. Just think for a moment and wonder at the glory, at the beauty, and also of the intricacies of life at every level, on every level and kingdom. You are overawed with wonder at that Supreme Intelligence. And no man can deny this, there must be a Supreme Intelligence guiding, directing, the evolution; the growth both physically and spiritually. And at this time we remember the Source of this wonder, the Light Supreme, God. We may feel sorrow – it is a solemn thought – but in the solemnities let there be joy that we can catch a glimpse of that glory.

And now, brethren, with humble hearts and minds, we remember and give thanks to the Great White Spirit, to the eternal God for life, for every gift of life, and above all for the gift of eternal life; and the knowledge and the proof which has been given to us of this eternal life. We remember the great Shining Company, for these are they who shall not grow old in the flesh, but shall continue to live and serve in a higher world and raising us all up, you and ourselves, from earth to heaven. We dwell in the silence, in the consciousness of love and thanksgiving.

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Dear beloved ones, thy people on earth thank thee, give thanks for thee. And the power descends upon this congregation like golden petals coming down from the love of those who are in the unseen life. They bless you, they love you, and they want you to know that life for them has not ceased, but they continue to live in a happier and freer condition. And oh, if you could only be there in that garden of reunion and remembrance, you would know that there is no death, only separation, which you with your material minds create. Do you know that your dear one is close beside you now? We can see by your side your dear one, a son, brother, father, wife, sister: all those who have passed from mortal life are close to you now. And they are God's messengers putting into your mind and into your heart helpful guidance, helpful thoughts. But you see, it is necessary for you to become as little children. As Jesus said, 'Except ye become as a little child ye can in no way enter the Kingdom'. And so, humility of mind. No arrogance of mind must be established. You must be trustful, trusting God and His love and His wisdom. We speak most sincerely and truthfully and simply when we say: underneath are the everlasting arms; around you is the wisdom and love of God.

And God has given power to His messengers, and to the illumined spirits of men and women to come into your very lives and impress you what to do, what is best, what is good for you, what is good for those around you. You may have experiences which you do not like, and then you think that God is a cruel God. But if you could give your heart in simplicity and trust to that all-wise and infinite Intelligence, Wisdom and Love you would be comforted. You would begin to see in your life how wonderfully God works things out for you. But, of course, it is important for the nature of man to grow ever more godlike. Man himself must strive to become big and generous-hearted. He must try to follow the *light* which the Spirit gives him, and then the blessing of heaven falls upon him; and all things work together for good. And this is the meaning of the Kingdom of Heaven coming upon earth.

Now before we can leave you, we want to say a word about the New Jerusalem. Jerusalem means a level of spiritual achievement. Jerusalem is truly the Kingdom of God. And all men are moving towards that City within themselves when they can see that life is leading them into that higher state of consciousness and understanding of harmony. Heaven is a state of harmony. At the present time on your earth all is conflict – but do not despair, for out of that conflict comes a vision, a state of understanding, an awareness of the principle of life, which is brotherhood and love. But the trouble with man on earth is he is too quick, he is too anxious. He wants to get there quickly. He wants to jump the Gates of Heaven. Man must progress steadily, even as your armies and the services on earth are so perfectly disciplined, having to obey their officers and do exactly as commanded, so mankind must learn to obey the Divine Law and do exactly as the law states. And the very first law is: 'Thou shalt love the Lord Thy God'. That is the very first thing that man must learn to do, recognize that Divine Intelligence, and that law which is working through every form of life. And then man must love his neighbour. Man knows, or thinks he knows, what is beat for his neighbour. Love the Lord they God, and be patient and do what you can in your small world to forgive hurts, to forget yourself and to work only for the good of your fellow creatures. And we know it sounds, it sounds a gospel of perfection – but this is it, this is the way.

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And your dear ones, this company of shining spirits, who are now with you, they are living in that state of harmony now, which you call heaven, because they have seen and they have heard the voice of goodness, of God. They are living in the New Jerusalem. Oh, that you could see the happiness with which these people work in their own particular section in the spirit world. And each one is drawn as by a magnet to the very sphere and to the particular work that the spirit most enjoys. Whatever the interest of your loved one, that interest is given to them in their everyday life.

Now life in the spirit, in that illumined state, is like life which you could imagine in a Golden City and in a perfect community. Oh yes, it is true what we tell you that your loved ones are happy, and they rejoice in their services. And they come close to you, and they whisper to you in your heart, or if you are trained in meditation and are able to release yourself from the burden and the darkness of your earthly mind, so that you are able to enter the Garden of Remembrance in the spirit world, your loved ones immediately come to you. It is the law of attraction, the spiritual law of attraction. They come to you, if you can imagine with your higher vision that you are now in the temple of learning, because this is where you are – you will see the beauty and the architecture of this temple of learning in which you are now situated. We are speaking to you from a raised dais in this temple of learning – this temple of living light. Yes, it is these inner powers and qualities of the spirit which you have to develop, so that you are always aware, conscious, of the companionship of your loved ones; because in spirit there is no separation. It is only the mortal mind, the darkened mind, the mind which is so stuffed with materiality and selfish projects that it is unable to see the truth and the beauty of the New Jerusalem. Saints in the past have seen it. They have given the world the knowledge; your own Christian Bible contains the Revelation given by John of this New City, this new Life. But mortal man with his material mind rejects it, says it is nonsense. Well, you will see, and all men will see in the course of time that every step you take on the path of spiritual aspiration and service will lead you higher, higher up that great mountain of *light*. And it will take you right through the gates and into that golden world of God, the New Jerusalem, which has been promised to man through ages past.

And so continue, beloved brethren, to work for the coming of the Kingdom of God. And no man can do a greater work than this, because the spiritual knowledge, wisdom, is power, and all material things shall be subject to that power; and the Golden Age will come. Now dismiss doubt: that is the lower mind which says, ‘this is all nonsense’. Stand up, erect and clear eyed, and see the vision glorious.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

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The embodiment of the Son, of the Christ spirit, is before you now in this temple of the Spirit. ‘Behold, I make all things new, and bring to you the symbols of the golden wheat and the grapes, the bread and the wine infused by the life, by the love and the power of God your Creator.’ Receive from Him these symbols of the holy communion. Take the bread from Him.

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Sip the wine that He proffers to you. Accept, accept, accept your life, your daily karma. Remember, remember the life of the spirit. Sip the divine essence, the Love of God.

This community is now receiving the power of the blessing of the Holy and Blessed Trinity. It is pouring, pouring upon you, and you are united in spirit with spirit, especially with those whom you have physically lost, but only physically. They are with you now, touching you, grasping your hand and kissing your cheek.

The blessing of Almighty God be with you.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Brother Faithful:

Somewhere in this Bible here, there is a passage which reads, speaking from memory, how beautiful are the feet upon the mountains laden with tidings of great joy – how beautiful are the feet. Those same tidings of joy we have been listening to tonight, not an irrational kind of joy, but a reasonable, hopeful, practical kind of joy brought to you by following out and obeying Divine laws, which in themselves are reasonable and practical. These are the tidings of great joy, which are enduring.

And so we come to our last hymn....

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:

spiritual contact, divine plan, God's plan, trust in God, communion, temple of light, inner peace, heavenly garden, golden city, garden of reunion, path of service, spiritual work, spiritual path, spiritual service, initiation, heaven world, spirit world, world of light, war, grief, loss, eternal life