

The Shining Army

A353 Sunday Address 11th November 1962 St Mary Abbots Place, London
Remembrance Sunday

Text: MB typescript, a blue carbon, and not the top carbon. No markings except around the communion at the end, which seems to have been edited by YGH for separate use. The title has been chosen for the current project; printed in *Stella Polaris* for October-November 1962, it carried the title 'Peace Abiding'. There is a phrase about three quarters of the way through which the typescript renders as 'enthusing life on earth with love'; we have assumed a transcription error from the shorthand, and rendered the first word 'infusing'.

Context: this time, MB has included Minesta's prayers at beginning and end, reproduced here. Hymns are given as 'For all the Saints' at the opening, 'Christ is the World's True Light' next, and 'Jerusalem' at the end. There were two anthems. One, between the invocation and the reading, was a setting of Laurence Binyon's poem, 'They shall not grow old'. It has been set a number of times, but most notably by Sir Edward Elgar, so maybe that was the version sung. Then, before the address, the Choir contributed 'Think on These Things' and MB notes a solo. It is likely that this was in the version by Carl F. Mueller (1892-1982). MB says it was 'beautifully rendered'. Minesta gave the reading, which was Revelation 21 : 1-7 ('And I saw a new heaven and a new earth'). The 'Chair' for the service seems to have been not Brother Faithful but JBH (John Hodgson) whose brief words at the end are preserved here. Maybe Brother Faithful was unwell. There is a beautiful communion early in the service, where in some Remembrance services as two-minute silence would have been held, and another short communion at the end of the address, in the normal place.

General Notes: not for the first time does White Eagle begin by describing those who died in war as 'Shining Ones' but here he makes clear that he is picking up on an earthly name for them, not confusing them with the true Elder Brethren in spirit. Elsewhere, however, we have had the impression that the two are continuous with one another. Unusually we move straight into a communion with these souls. He moves into discussing a line from the reading, 'The tabernacle of God is with men', and reminds his listeners that for a human to be alive on earth is for him or her to be the tabernacle of God. A theme of the address is sacrifice, and there promises to be a passage about facing injustice, but really White Eagle's thrust, as so often is to get all people to raise their consciousness above the narrow confines of earth.

References: 'These are they who have come out of great tribulation' is Revelation 7 : 14. 'And the Tabernacle of God is with men' is Revelation 21 : 3.

Historical note: there are references to fear and to having no fear in this address. It was given less than two weeks after the very tense thirteen days of the Cuban missile crisis, so there will have been no shortage of desire for reassurance in the congregation.

Minesta's opening prayer:

May we be still in mind and body and seek the inner silence, the centre of our being. And there in the pure White Chapel of Prayer in the Holy of Holies let us pray.

O Infinite Spirit, Lord God Almighty, we open hearts and minds to Thy Light, Thy Truth, Thy Love, praying that we may truly hold sweet and beautiful communion with the Infinite Spirit. And here we give thanks for Thy love, Thy wisdom and thanks for the companions of our earthly way. Thanks for the lives of all the sainted ones, for our elder brethren and teachers, guides and the companions of our spirit. We give thanks for the knowledge of the spiritual life and the continuance of life beyond physical life. As we give thanks, O Lord, our inner vision opens, and we see the shining ones around us, the Great White Army of the free

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and illumined souls of men. For this communion, for the presence of personal loved ones, we give thanks.

And may the form of the Cosmic Christ be present. May we worship in spirit and in truth, and receive the strength and inspiration to go forward carrying the light of the spirit into the future. Amen.

White Eagle's Address:

Beloved brethren, we wish first of all to draw you close towards us in spirit, for we are speaking to you from spirit – not from the earthly level – not from the physical mind, but from spirit.

And we would describe to you the illumined company surrounding you, if you will close your senses to the earthly life and in your visualisation, your inner vision, see the hosts of shining ones with you. These are they who have come out of great tribulation.

Now, you dear brethren know what it is to suffer physically and mentally. You know what it is to wrestle with earthly problems, and so do we who speak to you from spirit. We could not speak to you in this way if we too had not had the experiences of earthly life.

Now, the Shining Ones, as they have been called by earthly people, the cream of young manhood, those who cheerfully went forward to give of their finest according to their understanding – now these shining young spirits are here now. And we are in a vast temple built of light – built of their spirit – of their service. They did not realise the extent of their service to humanity, they simply responded to a call – there was a need on the earth – there was a great need for the earth, and earth's humanity had reached a point on the evolutionary path where a great effort had to be made to usher mankind onto a path of light, a spiritual path which will eventually lead to the Golden Age, which will come.

Now, before we proceed to talk to you about this Golden Age and the mighty service which has been rendered to mankind by these shining souls, let us pause and enter the Temple of Light with them. Will all of you earthly brethren who are imprisoned by your physical state of life try to break your bonds at this moment, and rise into that higher consciousness with your own loved ones in spirit, with all the sainted lives that have been, and are still being lived in the service of their brother man; and all those shining young knights, who continue to live and work in the world of spirit for the emancipation and illumination of mankind. Here, brethren, let us be still for the allotted two minutes seeing with the spiritual power of imagery this beautiful company of living souls, and send out to them your love, your gratitude, your recognition of the true service they rendered to mankind when their physical bodies were sacrificed for the good, the eventual good of this earth planet.

Enter the silence in thanksgiving. Amen.

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Do you not feel their presence? They are so very close. And remember they are the Great White Army of God.

In your present time there are certain young minds who cannot accept a belief in God, in a Supreme Divine Intelligence and Love and Wisdom. But you young people – you have all been extremely blessed in that you have been given an experience, perhaps many experiences when you have been able to penetrate the mists of earthiness, of materialism, and have felt in your innermost being the truth that you were part of infinity and eternity; and that you were a son of God, a child of God.

You have listened to a reading tonight, and the words were read: ‘And the Tabernacle of God is with men’. May we give you our interpretation of these words? You – the whole being of you, physical, mental and spiritual – *you* are the tabernacle of God. God is with you – within you – using you to further the grand Plan, the Heavenly Plan, the Spiritual Plan for the growth, the unfoldment of the spirit within you. This is a grave truth that we are speaking. So many people blame God for things which go wrong in their own lives, and in national life – in the life of the world. Where is there a God of Love to allow these tragedies to take place? Now, this man who is quickened in spirit, who has entered the place of purity and holiness in spiritual spheres, he has seen, he has beheld God, God everywhere, God in Glory. And he has seen the wisdom of Divine Law; and this, my brethren, is the law of cause and effect.

Humanity is still young, relatively speaking, but it is just beginning to recognise – although not in full consciousness – nevertheless, it is beginning to recognise that it is one whole, that the development of the individual has a mighty effect upon the whole of the community, the whole of mankind.

Now, what are those shining souls doing to you on your earth? You continually year by year hold your Service of Remembrance, but how many on your earth would believe, even if they were told, that this Shining White Army is most active in the World of Spirit, and that these fine young men are still living and serving their fellow beings? You on earth are so closed down, you live in a small room like a little dark box. There are windows in that dark room, but the majority of men and women keep those windows tightly shuttered, and never seek to raise the blind to look out into a better world around them.

Now, what are these shining young souls doing? They are living harmonious lives. They are also perfectly united now, for they have had the opportunity of learning, learning about spiritual law. They have had the opportunity of seeing for themselves the pictures, the etheric pictures of the past, which have shown them a reflection of the past – into the future. And they are learning the meaning and the reason for their own sacrifice. Possibly, in the beginning, these young people – and older ones too – had to endure disappointment and grief that they were cut off from a happy young life. But remember the Infinite Spirit, the Great White Spirit, is all love. You earth people cannot realise this – not when you have your vision so close to the immediate happenings – you cannot see the past – not all the past, and you certainly cannot see the future. But the young men and women – all those who were released from the physical body due apparently to the wrongdoing of man – they were released like doves – white birds – and they flew right out into the sunshine of the spirit life.

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You don't need us to give you physical proof of our words – you have received proof of survival after death; even if you haven't phenomena you have received the proof in your own innermost being. And you know that man cannot die, man does not die, he passes out of the physical life, and then his eyes are opened. Now, these young people – they had to learn their future work. Now, we cannot go into all the details of that work, but we can explain that there is a law, a perfect law which works with precision; and those lives that were forfeited in self-sacrifice, they received a compensation in a way which you cannot yet understand – full compensation for their obedience to the call – not of man, although they thought it was man. They thought it was their own King, or their Government, but it was something much higher than this – it was the call of the Creator: 'Come sons and daughters, we have work for you to do, and only you can do the work which you have earned the right to do.' Believe us, dear brethren, the law of karma and the law of reincarnation is absolutely just and perfect and true. And no man suffers unjustly, no man or woman is overlooked when he or she has earned the opportunity to serve. It is a wonderful gift, my children, the gift of service to each other, the gift of service to life, to the community. And these young people – this Shining Army – were trained, and they had their vision unfolded, and their spiritual life and power quickened. And in a vast assembly – oh, you cannot think of the mass of a million or more of souls of all, for all nations are as one. Remember, your nation is not the only one, all nations throughout the world are as one in the sight of God in the Great Plan of life.

And these Shining Ones were addressed, they were spoken to as a vast assembly, and learnt from the Wisdom of the Most High that their sacrifice was to make way, to prepare the soil for the coming into the consciousness of men in future years this truth, this basic truth of life that man is spirit – man is part of God his Creator, and that all life is one. And the whole purpose of life – and we say it to you in gravity and in love, the whole basis of your physical life is spiritual unfoldment.

Now, if a man appears not to be unfolding spiritually, do not judge any man, because you cannot judge any soul – any man. Man according to his karma may have to pass through unpleasant experiences. He may appear to his companions as evil, but we would have our brethren on earth recognise that evil is ignorance. Man may sin in omitting to accept his opportunities to learn. But remember, brethren, that every soul is bound by the law of karma. But there is compensation – God is merciful, and although you are told that man is bound by the law of karma there is the saving power in every man. Now, you notice that we have said in every man is a saving grace. Now, this saving power is the God, the Light within him. Now, this God light may manifest in a very simple and perhaps unnoticed way, but in all men there is some good. There is a light which will guide him. There is what you call the voice of conscience. Man knows what he ought to do, but he is frequently neglectful. But then his karma causes that condition. But if man can be sufficiently awakened, if man on earth can be touched and influenced by this Shining Army that is around you all, then man can save not only himself, but the whole of the earth planet. 'The tabernacle of God is with man.' People blame God for the terrible things which happen, but they never think of blaming themselves, or blaming men.

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Now, if man is called upon to endure experience which he feels is unjust and unendurable, if he will only try to listen to that higher voice, if only he will believe and think on good things, on God, on the laws of life, the brotherhood of life, if only he will respond to good; and more than this if only man will strive to reach that divine spark of light, God-light, in his fellow man – that is the point – but it is rejected by what is so proudly called the mind of reason. Man justifies himself by his earthly reason, his earthly mind. We are not denying the rightful place and rightful use of that mind of reason, but it must be influenced, it must be guided by the Divine Mind, the Mind of God, of love. The whole universe is a creation of Divine Love. The perfection of nature is the creation of divine harmony and love. And if you, as an individual, cannot see it, cannot accept what we are telling you now, then in time you will come to see that over all is a Divine Breath, a Holy Breath, which is infusing life on earth with love, strength and justice, yes. But, you see, the right spirit and Divine Love will gradually order and establish justice and harmony and brotherhood on earth.

We see humanity, even the most crude, we see in all humanity this young growing life, and as the earth after a period of drought and the rain has poured upon the barren earth, we see the little green shoots. Oh, how quickly nature rights itself when there has been privation! – and so it is with human life. We want you to think with great love and gratitude of all those who surrendered themselves to God unknowingly, but their influence has been pressing and pressing upon the earth plane. And what will you see opening in the future? Not destruction, as you have been wont to believe – you will see the gradual awakening of the mind and the heart. You will see leaders raised up, and when they have accomplished what God ordered in the plan for the good of evolution you will see they gently pass away or [are] gently removed. But what we want you to understand is your part – what you as an individual can do. You can do what your beloved, lover, husband, brother, father – whatever relation you have in spirit – you can do what they are all doing from the spirit side; you can do [the same] on the earth plane by offering good thought, God thought, positive thought, not the reverse. And in this way, dear brethren, you are giving your heartfelt love to them, your gratitude to them for their work. Moreover, you are working hand in hand, a shining army on the earth plane. Remember that man is spirit, and man must at the back of his consciousness never lose sight of this vital truth, that he is *spirit* and his goal is spiritual glory, as well as the perfecting of life on the physical plane.

What will happen, you will ask us, to the earth planet? Will it be disintegrated, as is often suggested by the young mind? No, my brethren, the earth planet may be low in the evolutionary scale, but it is rising, rising, rising, and you will see the purification, the clarification of this planet, saved by its own humanity with the Divine Spirit of the Creator shining through.

And He Who is the personification of the Cosmic Christ, the Perfect One, Man made Perfect, as all men will be made perfect, stands in your midst in this vast shining Company. Watch, with your spirit, this immense Figure with arms outstretched, with the blazing Star in His head. Oh, gently He offers you communion, the heavenly bread, which is the symbol of the cosmic body of Christ. For you must take into yourselves this cosmic body – this cosmic consciousness, this heavenly bread, for it is the substance of your substance.

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Now, the Grail Cup is held in the very centre of the blazing golden Cross. Taste, absorb into your being this Divine Essence of Love.

This service is now full, full, full to overflowing of this divine fire and power and life, and thus are you blest, dear brethren: blessed, comforted, strengthened, and feel the gift of eternal life, the impression of the beautiful world to love and to work for until it becomes the shining planet with our others in this vast solar system. This is the truth we have spoken.

The Brotherhood assembled here in spirit send to you individually, for you are all known to us, send you individually our love and assurance that there is nothing to fear as long as you love God. You may be only a tiny speck – just a unit – so long as you obey the law of spirit and live and serve in the spirit of love.

Peace, peace, peace be in you all – in all men the world over.

Brother Johannes:

White Eagle has spoken for over fifty minutes, and this last hymn, a beautiful hymn, is I think a fitting tribute to the inspired address which we have had tonight.

Hymn No.446: 'And did those feet in ancient time,
Walk upon England's mountains green.'

Minesta's prayer:

Let us pray again to God for the strength and determination to carry on the great work for the emancipation and illumination of mankind however small and simple our contribution may be – the widow's mite – it will bring in the service of all we love.

And may the deep peace of heaven, the tranquillity of the Master be with us, guide us and bless and beautify our actions, our speech.

O God, for this blessing we would thank Thee. 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:

spiritual unfoldment, spiritual development, spiritual path, path of the soul, divine plan, God's plan, trust in God, acceptance, life after death, rebirth, spiritual contact, spirit world, heavenly garden, garden of reunion, path of service, spiritual work, spiritual service, service, initiation, heaven world, world of light, remembrance, sacrifice, loss, death, armistice day, justice, faith, fairness, cause and effect, thought power, power of thought, sending out the light