

The Religion of the New Age

A189 Sunday Address 7th March 1948 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, February 1949

Context: this address, reprinted without any indication of when it was given, somewhat defies the dating process. Publication in February might suggest either New Year or the previous autumn, but there are identifiable addresses both for New Year 1949 and October and November 1948. Possibly, therefore, it comes from the spring of 1948, where we have little clarity about the sequence of addresses. That for 1 February 1948 is dated by reference to Gandhi's assassination but there is no clear candidate for either 7 March or 4 April, the first Sunday in each of those months. Very tentatively we ascribe it to 7 March, two weeks after the Anniversary service on 22 February, and three weeks before Easter, which fell on 28 March; 4 April remains a candidate. The reading was apparently Psalm 24, beginning, 'The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof' and containing the words White Eagle returns to several times 'and the King of Glory shall come in'.

General Notes: Primarily, this address is a disquisition on the power and the pitfalls of the mind. One rather powerful exhortation from it is that when we hear White Eagle speak the experience should stay with us – it is not something to forget as soon as we return to the world. White Eagle refers to purification rituals of the Cathars or Albigenses (and others) that are historically recorded. In this address he also introduces a concept of souls who remain incarnate, but cannot be part of urban culture – ones who live apart, aware of human needs but using their seclusion to apply light to the world. It is not entirely clear from the address whom White Eagle means in any specific sense, but we could possibly imagine these souls high in the Himalaya or Andes. As he says, they are of the physical world but their imaginative context is the 'City of Light' and they may be constantly in touch with others who are etherically present, but not limited by physical bodies.

Another title for this address might be 'And the King of Glory shall come in' – rather than in any functional way focusing on religion in the new age, it stresses the process of opening to the light, by which any human being may inhabit 'the City of Light' rather than the clouds and smoke of the cities.

References: the words from the reading given at the beginning are from verses 3 and 7 of Psalm 24. In referring, about half-way through the address, to 'My Father's house', White Eagle is almost certainly recollecting the opening of John chapter 14, 'In my Father's house are many mansions'. The desecration of the Temple which Jesus righted by overturning the tables of the moneylenders is a story in all the synoptic Gospels (e.g. Matthew 21 : 12-17) and also in John (2 : 13-16), though the story in John may be a separate incident, according to scholars. At the end, White Eagle alludes to Matthew 6 : 33: 'Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and all things shall be added unto you'.

White Eagle's Address:

We have to speak tonight on the passage which has been read from your Bible.

We shall summarise what we have heard in our own way. 'Ascend the hill of the Lord... Open wide the gates and the King of Glory shall come in.'

During the past centuries people have been listening to, reading, and largely feeding upon words. As a result the power of the mind has been developing. This is as it should be, because the mental body must unfold before the spirit can fully comprehend the powers and the secrets of God and nature. Such development commences with the listening to words; the

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assimilation of the meaning contained in words; the accumulation of knowledge through study. With this accumulation the mental part of man expands. But with this development and acquisition of knowledge man enters into temptation, because with knowledge comes love of mental power, which is not quite the same as the power of love and wisdom.

We have something to say about the two paths which lead man to power. Power of the mind has increased, and in this age is likely to increase still more. Yet [the] man who depends upon his own scanty temporal power in the end destroys himself. Therefore we want you to understand the nature of this power, and that man needs to know his goal, needs to know whither the path upon which he finds himself will lead. Once he can ascertain where he is going, he will begin to use his discrimination in order to select his path more wisely.

You listen to, you read the Scriptures; they are often only words, words, words. So it has been with mankind during past centuries. You come to a service. You listen to what we say. From this a degree of spiritual beauty may be inspired. Afterwards you will perhaps say, 'O, a beautiful service! I enjoyed it. It was a help'. Then you depart and commence your work in the outside world; as you contact material conditions again that which you have listened to, the power which you have felt may diminish. You forget, you lose contact with that power. This should not be so.

What we come back to is not to preach, not to keep on talking, but to help you to do something for yourselves. Maybe we bring into this service an influence, something which is intangible and invisible. If you could see the shining hosts around you now you could understand what we mean by the essence, the indescribable and unknowable power which gathers in a lodge or church during worship.

What you most need to know is more about this invisible and intangible power, and what it can mean to man in his everyday life. Many of you here will claim to have had proof of communication from friends in the beyond. You have had what you call 'evidence' of their continued existence, that they have been able to contact you from the world of spirit. How do most of you receive this proof, this evidence? Some of you will answer that you have received your proof through a sensitive instrument called a medium. Others will say it has come through their own spiritual awareness and contact with the invisible life. Beloved brethren, to receive proof of life after death is only to take a small step on the spiritual path of unfoldment. We who speak do so hoping that we may stimulate in YOU your own God-given ability to rise, to ascend the hill of the Lord. When you have ascended the hill of the Lord you will open wide the gates of your soul, without reservation, and the King of Glory will come in. This is the secret of the power and salvation of a human soul. It is not the intellect, nor yet the acquisition of much knowledge; it is not even the occasional ascent of some higher plane of consciousness; but an ability to reach and enter the plane of consciousness at any time in any condition of life.

In this new age a new religion is being established. This fact will be unpalatable to more orthodox thinking people. They will not like the idea of anything 'new' in religion. But the will of man makes no difference. The new religion, the new church will not deal in words

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only. It will not only preach the Gospel – it will interpret for its followers the mystic signs and symbols of the age. It will teach the people how to unfold their own Godlike powers, so that they may use the spiritual forces for the blessing of mankind.

How can this come about, you will ask? How may we set about learning how to use the spiritual forces which are around within us? We are told in the scriptures of the East, as well as the scriptures of the West, to turn away from the outer world, the material life, and seek the presence of the Lord. We are told to ascend the hill of the Lord. We read of Jesus the Master going up into a mountain, and his disciples encircling him. When they were seated, He opened his mouth and taught them. What does this mean? You know. It means that the leader, the Master himself, first left the material condition, rose above the physical life. He forgot it. He withdrew from it. This is what you do when you sit in meditation; you shut out the outer noise, the outer world, as you take the inward path; you contemplate spiritual things, and in so doing you rise in consciousness. You ascend the hill, and when you ascend the hill you open your soul to the King of Glory. This does not only take place in your mind, or in what you are pleased to call your imagination. It takes place in the environment of your individual world; within your own universe. You rise, and you become conscious of an unusual power; then you are filled with the glory of the Lord.

The Master Jesus, before His miracles, before giving teaching in the form of parables, did not fail to do what we have been describing. He raised his consciousness. Only when man learns to rise above earthly things can he come into contact with the King of Glory, or the kingdom of glory. Only then can the soul truly communicate with the spirits of its departed loved ones. You may think otherwise. Nevertheless, we say that only when man attains to spiritual awareness and spiritual glory can he truly communicate with those who dwell in that world of light. Constant communion of this nature does not turn a man's or woman's brain. On the contrary! God being all love and wisdom, to be filled with the glory of the Lord means that the individual becomes charged with perfect life, so that a high degree of balance, strength and health is his.

We are told that man is created in the likeness of God. The human body is the temple of God. 'My Father's house' is this temple – and the Master Jesus, finding it desecrated, took a whip and drove away those who were responsible for the desecration. But people today do not drive out that which is inharmonious, which desecrates the temple of the body, but continue to entertain desires and habits which are obnoxious.

My children, we would have you consider well these words, and endeavour in daily life to keep the mind pure, holy and humanly sweet, and always kind and loving. Practise pure habits of life. For the body is the temple of the Most High, and those who would open wide the doors so that the King of Glory may come in should see to it that their temple is free from money-changing and evil habits. This is one of the teachings of the brothers of the Great White Light, the Albigenses; of the Knights Templar; of the Illuminati; they were most careful to preserve a pure bloodstream, to entertain only pure thoughts, to wear clean garments. This is one of the first needs of one who would practise the presence of God, and

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who would bring into operation those spiritual powers which have been demonstrated to the world by the Master Jesus, and by many disciples of the Master.

So, beloved, it is not knowledge alone that mankind needs, but development of an inner power which is sometimes called in its early stages intuition. Intuition can evolve to such a degree it becomes knowledge, absolute and certain knowledge of the God-life. This power flows through the hands, through the eyes, through the aura of such brothers. They walk the world carrying with them healing power. They are the peacemakers. Blessed are such peacemakers, for they are called the children of God.

We see as in a vision the form of the Lord Christ – we will call him the Son of Man, because he has taken the form of man. But this form is built, it is created from the glorious light which is the Son of God; and this form stands in the centre of the blazing Sun. Encircling this form of the Son of God and Son of Man are disciples of all time, all ages; from him they are receiving teaching, but not by word; they receive it into their hearts. These are they who have ascended the hill.

There are many living today who cannot exist in the turmoil of the cities of the western world. They have taken up their abode in what we call the City of Light. They still live in full consciousness of the needs of the people below. Their love is transcendently beautiful, and they direct it constantly upon those who are in need. Any living soul who wills to turn towards the glorious City of Light may receive on an instant the full flood of that light and spiritual force, which will so change a life as to make it one of joy, harmony and perfect happiness – not without but within. When the heart of man stirs and is filled with light; when the light within unfolds the surroundings of a soul gradually become more beautiful, more harmonious. The trouble, my dear ones, is you get tired of trying to hold the contact, that you get overwhelmed with confusion on the earth plane. If you would but stand firm, keeping your contact with the King of Glory; and if you can help your brother man to do the same, your world would cease to be in a state of chaos; there would be no question of man at war with his brother man.

The religion of the new age will teach the people how to interpret their scriptures, and the mystic signs and symbols given through the ages. Hitherto only the few have troubled to pursue the path and practise the spiritual life.

Man lives too much on the outer instead of being properly balanced between the inner and the outer plane. Man lives ignoring the fact that he has an inner world, and that in this inner world will he find his true life, his true state of being. To this inner world he will go when he has no longer a physical body to contact the outer. Did not the Master Jesus say, ‘Store up for yourself treasures in heaven’ – within the heart? But these can only be developed, only realised through service. So, you see, the path upon which man has to walk is like a razor edge and very precipitous. Man has to become pure within. He must keep his contact with the King of Glory, but never be ignorant of the needs of his fellow man. He must serve on every hand. He must give to others all that he sees his brother should have, and in their service he is developing his own inner world, storing up for himself rich treasures in heaven.

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The truly spiritual man is a man of practical affairs, who is continually labouring in the vineyard of life – never for himself, but always for the good of his fellow.

We leave you with these words. Daily practise the presence of God, and all things of heaven and earth shall be added unto you. If you would pierce the veil into world behind the material world, learn the secret of your own inner powers through practising love to your brother man in the outer world.

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, spiritual path, path of the soul, inner light, intuition, life after death, new age, Age of Aquarius, inner peace, tuning in, moderation, pure living

