

# Remembrance

A039 Sunday Address 11th November 1937 Pembroke Hall, London Armistice  
Sunday

*This dating of this address includes an element of conjecture (see below, 'Context'), and the text is as issued in the magazine Angelus after it was given, apart from correction of errors*

*Text:* a duplicated script, as sent out in *Angelus*, December 1937, but typed here from a bound volume.

*Context:* the script states that this was given 'on Armistice Sunday'. It is bound with the addresses for 1937, and as Armistice Sunday actually fell on the proper anniversary date of 11<sup>th</sup> November that year, it seems right to regard it as being correctly ascribed.

*General notes:* White Eagle's welcoming his listeners into 'the communion of saints' reminds us that Armistice or Remembrance follows straight after the festivals of All Souls and All Saints, and in the general period of what he has sometimes indicated represents a thinning of the veil between the two worlds. Remembrance was a time in the 1930s when White Eagle was sometimes asked to speak away from his Lodge, but we assume that this was given to his normal congregation at Pembroke Hall. The word 'tonight' in the third paragraph indicates that it was an evening service (and thus not at the time of the service at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, which was doubtless at 11 am). The major theme of the talk is very much the Divine Plan.

*References:* the phrase about ascending in to heaven or descending into hell and God is there has biblical echoes, but no direct one; even the well-known phrase about raising the stone and cleaving the wood to find God is from apocryphal texts.

## White Eagle's Address:

We welcome you to the communion of saints. There are many of the unseen present tonight and we want you to try to realise this as we talk, for man feels ever a sense of separation from those who have passed beyond the mortal life. Remember, it is you who make that separation. And when your thoughts, and indeed your whole life, become attuned to the life of the spirit, that sense of separateness will depart. You will know then there is no death, but life goes ever onward.

To some this thought is unpleasant; if so, it is because their eyes are veiled and they have not yet seen the fuller life. Most people indeed go about with their eyes closed and miss even the beauty in nature, in the changing seasons. They fail to note the beauty in human life and love, in human experience, or see the love of God manifesting in the highest and lowest degrees of life. Those whose sight is fast closed do indeed dread the thought of life continuing, because they are blind and deaf to the love of their Creator.

We speak tonight on the subject of Remembrance, because at this time the world is thinking of the past. We say, not this nation or that, but 'the world', because hardly a place on this earth tonight does not receive an extra baptism of the spiritual force. Apart from this, the wayward man pauses at this anniversary to remember an experience of twenty years ago. Many still living have deep cause to remember the sorrow, the fear and horror of the war, so that this is called 'Remembrance Sunday' – a day set apart for remembrance. We come to you tonight from beyond the veil to help you to understand somewhat of the meaning of remembrance.

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At this moment, we recall with tenderness and love the young lives surrendered in the great cause of truth. Some here may not see the past in this way and, indeed, resent the idea that war is of any service to humanity. On the physical plane results appear barren, futile and useless. Truly, when mankind evolves, wars will become useless, but until humanity recognises the spiritual law which governs life, war will serve a great purpose.

We hear the old, old protest from the hearts of many – ‘Why does God permit these wars?’ Always the mind flames forth in indignation, because it recognises certain injustice and apparent futility in the affairs of men. Then it cries, ‘Why does God permit these things to happen? If God is love, how can He see His children suffer? Does not God’s heart yearn over innocent children bereft of fathers, mothers bereft of sons, whole families broken and devastated? Why, why, why, O Lord, must man suffer thus?’

And the answer comes ringing across the ages from the Spirit of Eternity, ‘Because, my children, God your Father holds you and your brethren on earth in His Mind as perfect sons of His own Life; He knows, being Infinite Wisdom, that suffering and devastation bring cleansing, purification and a reopening of the doors of opportunity – that these are necessary to teach His beloved child the Way, the Truth and the Life’. In other words, we know that God is love and His love is beyond the love of man for man.

O beloved of earth, we cannot describe God’s love, for it is of infinite beauty, infinite tenderness, enfolding sympathy and understanding; it is rich with sustenance, with divine bread and wine – the very Bread of Life, without which the spirit of man cannot live. And man may gain through experience, through human suffering, that bread which alone sustains and enables the spirit to grow in stature.

Whilst you are imprisoned in the flesh you cannot know the beauty in the spirit life. Those you mourn, who appear to have been cruelly snatched from a happy and joyous life on earth, now live in a condition of life far more lovely, more perfect in every detail. The work which they were destined to do, their share in the great plan of evolution, has and is being accomplished at this moment in the spheres of spiritual life. Never think of them as dead! There are no dead! We testify now – there is no death of the spirit. Why, spirit is the substance of life, flowing ever onward; and that which lives in you, lives in the brother by your side, shares in all natures, rises to the heavens, to spirit and to angel – and is akin to that enwrapped in the darkness and buried deep with the womb of materiality. God is there also. We ascend into Heaven and He is there; we descend into Hell and He is there. Without Him life cannot be. He is the Principle, the Substance, the Cause; He is Life and Love.

Remembrance; let us pause and think – A Day of Remembrance.

We pass on from the personal; we leave in the tender mercy of the Divine Spirit those beloved sons and sweethearts who laid down their lives so that others might live. Do not interpret this in any orthodox sense – they did not lay down life that others might continue in

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leisure, ease or selfishness; but that the remembrance of their sacrifice and courage should inspire those yet to be born, and those left to continue on earth, that they might work out in their day of life the divine Plan and purpose. Think deeper, beloved. Probe into the mysteries of life and see they gave life itself in the glorious cause of truth and to further human evolution.

When you are tempted to think of the uselessness of the past, pause; and remember there is no place for useless suffering in the Divine Plan. All that happens, either to the individual life, to the national life and, indeed, to the planetary life, is the result of law; the first great law which rules your being is that of Cause and Effect.

The time comes when we shall all view the situation from the mountain top. Now many are in the valley, although some have commenced to climb. When we reach the summit we behold the glory of the panorama of the vast pattern which the Divine Wisdom has planned. There are no loose ends, either in your own life or in the lives of any. God's Plan is exact, perfect; more perfect than any edifice built on earth, even that known on earth as the Great Pyramid (which we always refer to as the Temple of Light) known to students as being perfect in conception, in dimensions and in its masonry – even that which man made perfect cannot compare in exactitude or perfection with the Divine Plan.

As we take thought on this Day of Remembrance, we must admit that that which has happened in the past is playing a part in the world today. The karma of the Great War is working out. What have the nations learnt? A great deal, but that lesson is as yet scarcely stirring in the consciences of men; but it will stir, it will become a light. The sufferings which succeeded the horrors of that war taught the nations of their interdependence. The sufferings of your human life and experience teach you that you cannot live in splendid isolation, for every experience and every heartache you endure is the result, not only of your own actions, but those of another. The actions of your brethren are interwoven with your own and you cannot separate them.

Thus we learn that whilst we persist in hurting another by thought, word or deed, we draw to ourselves exactly that which we have delivered to our brother. And we learn that if we would bring peace on earth, we must give peace. It is useless for us to stand on this platform and demand peace. That is not God's way. He places within man's breast the seed of peace. It is for man to nurture the seed, to bring it into growth and flower.

Do not look at your brother by your side and expect much of him, nor to the countries afar off and expect much of them; but see to it that you give that which God has given to you; love, understanding and tolerance.

And the gates of heaven will be opened wide to you.

Beloved, most of us on earth have been anxious and have striven after that which seemed all the time to evade us. But remember this – most things matter very little. Those things which

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you worry about and fear and regret are very unimportant; they all pass, they are transient. There is one thing which lives today, tomorrow and through the ages – it is the spirit of thankful remembrance – thankfulness to God for the lessons in which in His wisdom He has allowed you to participate. As soon as we can open our hearts to thankfulness, we shall be filled, full measure, pressed down and running over.

O my dear ones, put aside the grudge which you have against life and raise your thoughts to the Infinite Father God. ‘Thou hast been very good to me, I would follow Thee, follow Thy spirit which Thou hast implanted in my breast, even he whom the world crucifies because it does not understand, Christ the Lord.’

And so, let us remember. Let us bow our heads to the Almighty Wisdom and Love. We question no more. We know that the Law must work itself out in human life; that which we sow today in joy and thankfulness, we reap tomorrow. And that which we sow today in fear, hatred and greed, which is out of harmony with the law of life, we must reap tomorrow in war and hatred, until the day comes when we have finished.

Love begets love; happiness begets happiness; truth, sincerity and justice beget truth, sincerity and justice.

And so, dear Father of all mankind, we open the channel to the outpouring of Thy love and Thy wisdom and mark this day as a Day of Remembrance of all Thy blessings, and the progress of humanity towards the Light of the Ages.

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:*

*law of equilibrium, veterans’ day, memorial day, life eternal, purpose of suffering, loss, pain, positive thought, gratitude, God’s plan, life after death, rebirth, eternal life*