

# Tolerance

A206 Sunday Address 3rd July 1949 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, September 1949*

*Context:* this is the address one would expect to find printed in the September Angelus, but an editorial in that issue, mentioning the address, could be construed as implying it was an address from very early on in the White Eagle's ministry. On balance, however, it seems best to date it as is done here. There is a tantalising reference both to hymns and a reading about God, without any details. Hymns about God could easily include 'O Holy Spirit God, All loveliness is Thine', the words of which are by Percy Dearmer. It was a regular favourite at a later period, at least. For a possible second hymn see 'References', below. The penultimate paragraph contains the gentlest possible hint that the choir might have sung the anthem, 'God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth'. The words are from John 4 : 24; the anthem is by William Sterndale Bennett (1816-1875). It would fit with the statement that the hymns were about God.

*General Notes:* White Eagle makes an intriguing statement that the fundamental root of all intolerance is ignorance of the nature of God. The maxim of the brotherhood, that the true brother can worship anywhere, is expounded here.

The extended paragraph about the Divine Feminine is outstanding within White Eagle's teaching. The outcome of the talk seems to be that the new age will be one in which the greatness of woman will be recognised.

*References:* the exchange between the lawyer and Jesus is to be found in Luke 10, verses 25-37, although 'Who is this God of whom you speak?' is not quite what the lawyer says. The phrase 'the daily round, the common task' comes from the hymn, 'New every morning is the love' whose words are by John Keble. The penultimate paragraph mentions another hymn about putting your hand in the hand of God and knowing all will be well. There is an outside chance that the hymn was 'Courage brother, do not stumble' but there is no line in it that exactly fits White Eagle's statement. For a possible anthem see 'Context', above.

## White Eagle's Address:

When once you think truly about, when once you can attune yourself to that unknowable essence or spirit we call God, you will have the experience of actually knowing God. This may sound like a contradiction in terms; nevertheless, when we speak of the Unknowable, we mean unknowable by any of the usual methods of knowledge, but not by the methods of the soul and the spirit.

You have been singing hymns about, you have listened to a reading about God. We wonder how many people really comprehend God. 'Who is this God of whom you speak?' asked the lawyer of Jesus. There is a multitude like this lawyer. Yet every man and woman born upon this earth spends his or her days consciously or unconsciously searching for God. Not only does a man search for God in this manner, but when he feels that he has found God, he becomes quite certain that his particular God is the only true God. In this the man is both right and wrong. We will explain what we mean as we proceed, and in this process of explanation you will begin to understand why it is foolish to be intolerant. For while tolerance can ensure happiness and peace, intolerance is a very sad state of mind, since it can engender anger, hate and great resulting unhappiness. Indeed if you look around your world today you will see acute suffering, which is largely the result of intolerance in some form. So

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we would emphasise this lesson: strive to be tolerant in the daily round and common task in the home, and in the outer world.

Perhaps, first of all, a man should seek to be tolerant in religious matters. History has shown that religion seems to create more intolerance amongst the nations, as well as amongst individuals, than anything else. Is it not true that friends should avoid discussion or argument on religion and politics, if they would remain friends? These two subjects seem especially liable to cause man to become angry, hasty and bigoted. We are going to say that all trouble on this earth can be traced to one first cause, and a very simple cause at that; and this is no other than man's lack of understanding, of comprehension of God. Not until man can unfold his spiritual nature does he get a clearer vision of God, and as his vision unfolds does he become more tolerant.

The student of astrology will tell you that knowledge of this science can bring an increasing tolerance towards your brother man; because, as you study the planets and the heavenly bodies you realise that man down on this earth is subject to certain directing influences emanating from those planets and heavenly bodies; and that these are teaching him the necessary soul lessons; also, he has acquired certain characteristics as a result of the direction of those heavenly bodies. When once you can meet your friend with an understanding that any little peculiarities and idiosyncrasies are due to such stellar influences, then you can say, 'Oh well! That is an effect caused by the rays from So-and-so' (naming a planetary influence). You will no longer get vexed, but can smile, because you understand the reason which causes him to act as he does.

In like manner when you trace back the history of religion into the dim past from which it emerged, you begin to see the way man has travelled in his long journey through the duration of physical life, and as a result you become more tolerant. When such a man says, in effect: 'I have found the only true religion. My God is the one true God, and since your God is false, you are following the wrong path', you can smile, thinking to yourself, 'But, my dear brother, your God is my God! The God you are worshipping is the same God as mine, but we are traversing different paths, using different methods of approach to the centre of truth. That is all!'

In the beginning of life man's natural instinct was to fear and then to worship a power superior to his own. Remember that man was at one time like a very young babe in his essence – was in fact a baby soul – and so was hardly conscious of his own being, let alone conscious of God. In his progress along the path of evolution he has since developed, first of all, self-consciousness, or realisation of his own being and of his own limitations. Conscious of these limitations he has looked outside himself for the Power that created him. Later on he is destined to become more fully God-consciousness; that is to say, to realise that the God he worships and loves dwells within his own being. But present-day man has yet a long way to go. In this age man is developing the mental body, a necessary process which will give him greater powers of comprehension when the time comes for him to become God-conscious.

In the beginning, the man, as babe, is mostly conscious of the mother, of the one who gave him physical birth, and nurtured him. For this reason in prehistoric times worship was given to the Mother, because the Mother bestowed life. Those who are students of the ancient races

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will have found many figures, statues, and even drawings of mother and child. Today the Christian Church thinks that its teaching concerning the Virgin and the Child is exclusive to itself, whereas this same teaching is as ancient as the earth itself, forming the very beginning of religion and worship. As a result, the God of the ancient peoples was conceived as a woman, the great Mother, and for a long time such worship held sway. Originating from this conception of a Mother God, [there] came to the peoples of ancient races the idea of a queen to rule her people. As many of you know, even as late as prehistoric Egypt, as also in the West, in the Maya tribes and in many others that we could name, the woman, the mother, was the chosen leader, Queen, or the Pharaoh. Then, as thought or life evolved, as self-consciousness developed in the human race, the idea of the necessity for the Father entered the picture. In this manner the two aspects were introduced, the Father as well as the Mother God. And then to complete the two came the Child. In this manner a triune God became worshipped. Later on, the Father principle became predominant; and from that time consciousness of the Woman aspect, or the Mother, gradually faded into the background, and the God of the peoples then became the Father God.

This aspect is clearly instanced in the Jehovah of the Jews, and we think that it is equally prevalent at the present day when many of your popular sects exclude the worship of a Mother God, and even of the Son. (We believe there are sects who worship only one aspect of divinity, which they conceive as the male aspect.) Nevertheless, if you will use your reason, or what you call common sense, you will begin to see the importance of the triune God, the necessity for the two aspects, both male and female, and how the birth of the child of purity and love completes the two and becomes a symbol of the perfect God. Coming back again to Jehovah, the God of the Jews, we see a representation of a very human God, once arrayed in most of the attributes and failings of human nature, and both jealous and cruel.

It would seem that throughout the ages man has created his image of God in the image of himself. Although it says in the Scriptures that God created man in His own image, we cannot ignore the fact that man has since created God in man's own image. For this reason, according to the development of the man or woman concerned, you will find his God. Often you say: 'Oh, So-and-so makes a god of her home'. It is true; people make their own gods. We cannot deny this fact. But we must remember that whilst such person is creating his divinity, he is by this process developing and unfolding his own character and progressing along his path of spiritual evolution. Let us all remember, then, my dear ones, to be extremely tolerant of other people's religious convictions, because to them their idea of God is perfect and real – and they are assured that their God is the only true God. What we emphasise is this – do not try to disillusion any man. Do not try to convince him against his will. Everyone will find their own God in the course of time. You may give ideas which another person may pick up, but the wise man will not argue about anything. When asked, he contributes his findings upon any subject. He will not say he is right, and that only he is right. He listens patiently to others and contributes what he has found to be true. To learn truth, he turns within to the sure place of truth, and there he holds communion with his God, which is spirit within his heart.

Beloved, if you can live such a life of tolerance, of kindly consideration for other people's struggles in their search for God, you will not have lived in vain. You will have contributed great light to this dark earth plane.

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You have been singing a hymn about putting your hand into the hand of God and knowing all would be well. In contrast to this, we look out into the world of today and see men of powerful intellect, powerful lives, yet how many amongst them could be called truly great? How many great men and women could be counted in the human family at one time? Few indeed! Yet more than one might think, for on looking through history with discernment and discrimination you can recognise that quite a number of great men and great women have visited the earth – note, women too have their place in history as great souls.

We are entering upon the new age of Aquarius. Some people call this the age of women. We say that this is an age when recognition of the greatness of womanhood will return; and when there will be a wonderful partnership and co-operation between these two aspects of the divine spirit.

Humanity has gone through great struggles to find such a truth, but is now coming out on to the mountaintop with rich treasure.

Do not be cast down or dismayed by the apparent problems of the material world. Study them more carefully, and you will observe the wonderful outworking of the divine Intelligence intent on bringing the nations together. For this new age will awaken the world to a clearer and greater comprehension of God.

We have said that people are apt to claim that their God is the only true God. Any man or woman who says this is right, because every person discovers his own God. The greater the height the person attains the greater will be his vision of God, which is Love and Light. A reflection on that light and that love is implanted in the human heart. Within the heart centre God has put the seed of Himself, which makes you God's son or daughter – and makes every human soul in any nation your brother or your sister. All people are living, searching and striving for some ideal – although it may seem to you sometimes that their idea is wrong. Through this process of searching for their idea, for their God, they are developing a power within themselves which will enable them to comprehend a more universal deity. For this reason, the belief of every man who claims that his God is the only true God must be respected. Should you enter any religious organisation, church, or meeting place, enter with a humble heart, and with reverence because you are in the Presence of God. The manifestation of their God will come to people in their own hearts, and in the particular way they can best understand. It may not be your way; nevertheless, remember that you are in the Presence of their God. By so doing you help to create peace and brotherhood on earth; for when all can agree that their God is the same true God then at last man will be able to shake the hand of his brother, no matter of what nationality, because all will know they are worshipping the Source of their life, the Source of all being.

Let us worship the Light, which is truth; which is love; which is tolerance; which is justice; which is kindness; which is brotherhood; which is gentleness, humility and all the attributes of the great Godhead. Let us worship God in spirit and in truth, and learn to recognise God in every aspect of natural human life.

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O God, may Thy Light fill our minds; may Thy Love swell in our hearts as we praise and thank Thee for life, both on earth and in the spheres of light and beauty within and beyond physical form. Amen, Amen, 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:*

*evolution of female and male god, the god within differs among humans, tolerance, beginning of human life*

