

## Facing into the Sun

A346 Sunday Address 21st January 1962 St Mary Abbots Place, London New Year service

*Text:* top copy of an MB typescript, with the previous year's date by mistake. A phrase about a third of the way through is puzzling, 'But oh, how amusing trouble is sent to try you?'. In the typescript the word 'how' is repeated, but we have altered this, without restoring real sense to the sentence. Maybe it should read, 'But how amusing is the trouble sent to try you!', or 'But oh how amusing that trouble is sent to try you!' Late in the teaching the stenographer missed a word or more: we have supplied 'dwelling on' to give 'he does not keep on dwelling on them and gloating over them'.

*Context:* the typescript, as noted, has this as 1961 but this must be a typical start-of-the-new year mistake: the '1' is corrected to a '2' on the cover page (though not inside) and Brother Faithful's message at the end of the address of 17<sup>th</sup> December 1961 makes it clear that the next service would be on 21 January, after the laying of the parquet floor. This service was thus in many ways a celebration of the improvement – the old floor, by all accounts, was painted concrete. Brother Faithful mentions a service the previous week at New Lands but there is no record of White Eagle's message, if he spoke. The typist includes opening words by both GEC and IC (GEC's opening and IC's closing are retained here), and mentions a reading from Revelation (21 : 1-25, 'And I saw a new heaven') and the hymns 'Now thank we all our God', 'O life that maketh all things new' and, at the end, 'Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy'. In place of a hymn in third place the choir sang the anthem 'As thy day, so shall thy strength be'. The line is from Deuteronomy (33 : 25) but the whole hymn is by John Fawcett (1740-1817) and begins 'Afflicted saint, to Christ draw near'. There are a number of tunes. White Eagle twice mentions 'Eaglets' in this address. The Eaglets were the young people's group within the Lodge, ably led at least for most of their time by Michael Collishaw. It sounds as though many were present; they might have been volunteering to put back the furniture after the laying of the new floor.

*General Notes:* a particularly powerful and important address. The opening, after the first greeting, is unconventional: an acknowledgment by White Eagle that he sometimes gets misquoted. There is no way to tell if this was one rather significant incident, or a series of less significant ones, but it fits with the general acknowledgment that the most important wisdom in White Eagle's teaching is what is read between the lines, not in them. White Eagle goes on to speak of how our understanding of his meaning actually grows as wisdom unfolds – a good reason for not attaching ourselves to the literal meaning but rather to the spirit of the words. Shortly he will say how important it is to keep the mind clear of worries when listening to what he says.

Next, White Eagle refers to astrological predictions for the year ahead: he says what is to come is not dire, but wonderful. 1962 in fact contained, among other things, the first space circumnavigation of the earth (by John Glenn; the rocket launched on February 20) and, maybe the most significant event of the year, the Cuban missile crisis of October. However, a later reference makes it clear that the fears attached particularly to a February Eclipse of the Sun (see below, 'Historical Note'). White Eagle makes it clear that this would be mainly positive and, as he predicted, the outcome was certainly not dire although the period was one of the most tense in post-war history. Coming back to people's deep fears about the Cold War after much teaching about facing fears, White Eagle speaks of our need to resist 'all the confusion, the hatred, the fear, the darkness, nation against nation, threat against threat of these things which cause you so much alarm and sorrow'.

There is interesting teaching on karma ('not sent to you by God ... your own creation'). This is followed by a very crucial statement, one scarcely made elsewhere by White Eagle: the knowledge that one of the first and greatest tests is 'the test of looking straight into the Light and never wavering'. It is a very powerful message about overcoming fear.

The final section of the address returns to earlier themes but with an exhortation never to look back, and a particularly beautiful account of the process of death and how easy it is for every soul.

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*References:* 'God is in His Heaven and all will come right' is an echo of the last line of Browning's poem, 'Pippa's Song', where it reads, 'God's in His heaven, All's right with the world'.

*Historical Note:* February 1962, mentioned above, offered two powerful astronomical or astrological events: a more or less complete line-up of the planets (seven, in fact), and a near-total eclipse of the Sun on the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month. It also saw the commencement of the US blockade of Cuba and a whole series of nuclear tests in Nevada.

## Reopening words from Minesta:

Before the first hymn is given out, I should express our joy at the reopening of the Lodge; and especially for the wonderful gift of our new floor and the lights and warmth. And lastly, but not least, I want to thank everyone who has been so wonderfully helpful and co-operative. Now, some of you here will be inwardly smiling when you know the chaos there was in the Lodge a few days ago, and through the hard work and enthusiasm and love of so many of you, especially our younger members – our Eaglets – you have created order out of chaos, and I want to thank all the workers and the givers of themselves and their material gifts for making us so comfortable and creating such a lovely harmony and beauty in the White Eagle Lodge.

Thank you all from White Eagle and myself.

## White Eagle's Address:

Beloved children, we speak to you from the spirit and from a world which is unhampered by space, time or flesh. Though we use this instrument we are not bound to it. And from this level of life, this spirit level, we bring to you all our love and power and a certain amount of wisdom, we hope. This is our object in returning to the physical plane to speak to you; for what we say we know is true. What you interpret from our words is your matter not ours. Now, we say this because we have noticed – we have heard a few little misrepresentations of our words. We are not blaming you dear friends, brothers, but we want to explain to you that each individual is his own interpreter, as the painter paints his picture from his soul – sometimes from his intellect – nevertheless the heart and centre of the artist is the soul; and the onlooker must interpret the meaning of that picture as he sees it, and he may get an entirely different message from the picture from what the artist had in his mind to write on the canvas. And so it is in our world of spirit. We come to bring you wisdom and a limited amount of knowledge, and it is up to you how you interpret it.

Now, let us remember this: that all souls are at a different stage of unfoldment. We cannot judge you, or any one. You cannot judge any man. But most individuals do try to judge their fellow man. But it is quite an impossibility because we are all at a different stage on the path of life.

You will find that your interpretation of our message tonight may not be the same interpretation that you will give to it after you have had a little more experience, a little more

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training. We just want you to remember, remember, the slow unfoldment of life. Think of the flowers, think of the opening rosebud, and you will understand that all life continually unfolds. Man's understanding continually unfolds. And this we want you to bear in mind particularly at the beginning of this New Year, because many of you think it is going to be very portentous. We shall see; and the many interpretations which have been made about the astrological configuration next month will all be revealed to the student, to the aspirant in a very wonderful way, and not in a dire way. Have we made this perfectly plain to you, because we believe that some of you have gained the impression from our words that we have foretold dire happenings? No, it is not our way ever to do this, because it is not in accordance with Divine Truth.

Now, we want to leave the matter there for the moment, and we shall come back to it a little later on in our talk.

We heard a statement tonight that no one had collaborated in the building up of the plan of this service. We, the Brothers, smiled! Maybe some of you smiled too, but we know what our dear Brother Faithful meant. But you see in our world we make preparation before we come to talk to you. We send forth thoughts, ideas, which you on earth respond to, you pick up if you are tuned in to our wavelength. Many of you are tuned in, so although we do not actually pick up a physical telephone and say we would like such and such reading, and such and such hymn, we just think it and lo and behold! it comes to you. Oh yes, this is true; but we would like to explain further that there is something that you can do which is absolutely necessary in your reception correctly of the message which is sent through.

Now sometimes, as you know, the wires get crossed, and particularly if your mind and your attention is held at a level of turmoil, anxiety, worry, tension. Then there is confusion because instead of the message coming through like a clear ringing bell it is muffled and confused; and then the recipient will get a muffled, confused message. They may get just a tiny scrap of the real thing, but not a clear, crystal clear picture.

Now, this is most important for you to understand because at the present time there are many confused messages being received on the earth plane. The earth is a world of illusion – the lower astral planes are planes of illusion, and it is well for all of you to remember this. And when you remember it to say to yourselves, 'But there must be something we can do about this – what can we do to eliminate all the interference and all the confusion?' Your technologists on the earth are always working to overcome faults, put right little things which cause trouble in their – (we are trying to think of the word you call it) – anyway, in their plant. I do not know if that is a good word, but someone says, 'it is as good as any other'. You know what we mean by this.

And so it is right that you dear ones on the earth plane should examine yourselves, examine your life, and if you are in difficulties say to yourself, 'Now what can I do to eliminate this trouble?' Now, there are some who will say you cannot eliminate trouble from your life. Trouble is sent to try you. But, oh how amusing trouble is sent to try you! Try you for what? Problems are set before mankind, and he has to ponder and think out these problems and do the best he can. The problems, by the way, are not sent to you by God. Your problems are

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your own creation. Oh, we know you won't like this, you won't believe it; but problems and difficulties are certainly the karma of the individual, and karma is not necessarily bad.

We repeat what we have said on a former occasion. Karma is an opportunity. It is there, because you yourself at some time in the past have created it, because you have failed to obey Divine Law; because you were ignorant. It does not make any excuse – it is no excuse, ignorance is no excuse – you learn by your karma. Karma should be regarded as an opportunity. But do not, we beg you, sit down under it. Some will say, 'I know it is my karma, I must bear it with a cheerful face'. We know a lot of dear friends who say it, but you see we want to show you just another way of dealing with karma. Accept the difficulties – this again will not be very palatable but try it and see. Accept the difficulties with thankfulness, and say, 'Well now, this is another step forward. How do we deal with this? I will do the best I can.' But there is always help. Now this, dear brethren, is the wonderful gift which your Creator has bestowed upon you, a gift of His spirit; for you are His son, you are part of that whole, that power, that life which is behind all form and all physical manifestation.

Now, the power which holds the stars on their course, the power which brings forth life on the earth is the same power which will, if you allow it, use you and work through you for your good. God does not intend or wish – it is not His plan to visit you with sorrow and sickness and all manner of evil. God's power is in you, and you are learning to be channels for that power. Now this is the basis, this is the core of our New Year message to you.

Now, we are going at this point to become again a little human and point out your Lodge, this Lodge that has gradually grown and improved in material things. You have for a long time shivered, and some of you have prayed for warmth, you hoped that somehow a miracle would happen so that there could be installed warmth. God heard that prayer. But did you do anything about it, besides praying for it? We did on our side of our life, we got very busy about it. It was a distress for a long time that the very foundations and the floor of your Lodge was crumbling. Now, many of you were not aware of this, but there were some who were very aware, and amongst the few who were aware of it quite a company of Brethren on our side of life prayed about it – we did something about it, but you see we worked behind the scenes. We are able to do this, but we need your co-operation. We need your faith, your belief, your vision; and beyond this, more than this, we need your love, your light. We need you all to train yourselves in daily living, living in harmony with Divine Law. We need you to be strong and to never falter on your destined spiritual path.

Now, one of the lessons, we will say the first test which the soul or would-be disciple has to pass is the test of looking straight into the Light and never wavering. Now, then, this is our message tonight, children, because we know that there are some of you who are anxious, you are troubled, you are fearful. We bring you this message. Now, do not be fearful about anything on this Earth. Look right into the Light. The eagle flies right into the Sun. Remember, you are eagles, eaglets: fly right into the Sun and never falter. The soul who can stand firm and sure and look right into the Light of the Sun, or the Heart of God, will have no fear about anything.

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Now, this is the most important lesson that the human being living on earth has to learn. Now, if you can keep your faith and look into the heart of the Sun you are working in harmony with cosmic law and Divine Power. Nothing can harm you. God is with you. God is in you. God is behind you, and when there is special human need God gives His Angels charge over you. Never forget this message. Of course man must do his part. You cannot be – you cannot expect to be carried through life, that is not the purpose. You must stand on your own two feet and be upright and do unto your fellow man what you would have him do unto you. Now then, this law is supreme in human life. The Great Master – the Beloved Lord Jesus the Christ – gave to man through His teaching all the profound occult laws. You will not find a higher teaching – higher teaching in any religion in the world. The teachings of Christ contain all that man needs for his progress, his physical needs, his health, his happiness and his sweet passing from the physical into spirit life.

Now then, we know that there are many little side turnings, and quite numerous – that is not a good word, but we cannot find it in this brain at the moment – but innumerable little lanes of knowledge which are all springing from the central truth. There is so much to fascinate the intellect, particularly in this age; and man gets baffled and sidetracked by these mental gymnastics. Now, we are not saying it is not right to use your intellect and use your brain. Of course it is right, but remember that the brain is like the eye or the ear, or the mouth and the tongue and so on: it is just an organ of the physical body. What man needs beyond all that intellectual knowledge and work is the core of truth; the power, the power in his own being which will assist him on his journey through physical matter.

Now, when man has found his centre, the centre within – when he has by prayer, meditation and practice become attuned to that Infinite Power, he has the secret of life, the secret of the Universe. Do remember that man is a creator – a spiritual creator as well as a material builder and destroyer. He is a spiritual builder, a creator; also a destroyer. You see there is this constant movement, this constant change taking place. But what the individual soul has to know and be sure of is that all works together for good. Do not be negative, always be positive.

Now this is a precept of the Inner Brotherhoods, the ancient Brotherhoods, and no White Brother will ever prognosticate evil, darkness, destruction – because the White Brother, being at one with the Infinite, can see the good which is coming, always the good, the good, the good. The shadows or the evil falls behind and consumes itself. Now we want you all to remember this, because it is so vitally important in the world today for you as pioneers of the New Age of Brotherhood to make your contribution of truth and light and love to the World and to humanity. Never see dire happenings. Always *know* that God is in His Heaven and all will come right.

Now what you are seeing in the world today – all the confusion, the hatred, the fear, the darkness, nation against nation, threat against threat of these things which cause you so much alarm and sorrow – are all moving forward, slowly but surely, to a New Age of Brotherhood. It must come – it must be – so do not look back, look into the Sun and you will be helping the world, helping the Brotherhood of the Light. You will be helping yourself. Don't get overwrought with foolish tension and emotion. Do what you can in the time at your disposal.

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Don't try to do more than your strength will allow. Now this may seem a very homely fact, but you need it. What we want to convey to you beyond everything is the way for you to find freedom, freedom from the bondage of your own making. For you tie yourselves up into knots by your wrong thinking.

This truth that we give you at the beginning of this New Year is an age-old truth. You know it, you know it perfectly well deep within you; but we think you are a little despondent and you think it is all very well for some ages hence, but at the present time it is quite hopeless. Well, you see if you are going to adopt the attitude of the world being in such a muddle, and your own life being in such a muddle, [that] everything is hopeless, well, of course, it will be hopeless. There is no doubt about it, you will just have to endure, but as we said at the beginning of our talk: whatever is the trouble, if you bring it out and look at it and say, 'What can I do about this?' [then] in the broad sense, my children, there is no ill – physical, human or spiritual – which cannot be put right. There is no such thing as an incurable state, an incurable disease. Now you may think this is a very sweeping statement, but it isn't, you know. It is a true statement. When man brings himself to face the truth, and to look into the Sun, he will know that with God all things are possible. And the thought-power in the world today is not as it should be. But you can help to create a better state of things by your projection of positive God-thought – good thought.

In your meditations, you are taught to use your highest and best, [your] most spiritual imagination. What man holds in his mind or in his imagination eventually crystallizes on Earth. And so, at the beginning of this New Year, again we say to you, do not look back. The wise man buries his mistakes; he does not keep on dwelling and gloating over them. He puts them behind – finished, finished. We do something better. We create a new garden every summer: new flowers, a new garden, we create beauty and we create harmony. And this applies also to world affairs.

Now there is, unbeknown to earthly people, there is a centre of power just above the earth where the Brothers of the Great White Light – Brothers loyal and true to their vows and to the Divine Law – are working, working, working through men on earth who are proving to be true instruments. They are receiving from the spirit life guidance, vision; they are true instruments of God for the bringing about of world Brotherhood. Oh, it is the self that is preventing this brotherhood of man, because the younger members of the human family are full of fear. They think of themselves first, they do not think of the good of the whole and that on this earth plane [there] will one day be a world brotherhood. There will be no dissension between the nations. We know that what we say is true.

We want you first of all in your own life to help us to bring about this worldwide brotherhood: harmony, happiness, beauty. It will come. Those of you who are fearful and anxious, remember the source of your strength. Remember that the angel messengers, probably your own relatives in some life – in this life, or in a past incarnation, but certainly those who are in harmony with you, with your spirit – are just rushing to help you when you sound the clear bell, the truth divine – love, Christ love. Then you will see that power working miracles in your life – working miracles all over the earth. Jesus knew that to work a miracle He had to be at one with God His Father. This is the whole of His life. He

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demonstrated it, He taught this Infinite truth. Don't say you can't; try, and you will see quietly and steadily all things working together for good.

Now the portents of the Eclipse that you are anticipating in February are surprisingly good – all that is unwanted will be consumed, will fade away; but there will be an incoming Light, a Light which is truth, into the human minds, into leaders of nations, leaders of thought. There comes a change, great changes, and especially what we should call spiritual changes, because there will be this stimulation, this waking up of this Divine Spirit in life and in man's own heart. You have nothing to fear; and certainly not death.

Now, we have to conclude our talk with this particular thought – it is a hackneyed phrase – a platitude – to say there is no death. You think that because you can get into communication with the astral plane it means there is no death. It is a much, much bigger thing than this. When you go forth into freedom, it is not the terrible thing which many on Earth anticipate. No one knows when they die – understand this – no one knows the actual moment of dying. Do you know the actual moment when you fall asleep at night? No, you don't know anything about it, you wake up in the morning, or you wake up in the middle of the night with a mind all very confused. But you see if you are peaceful in your mind, you fall asleep, you wake up in the morning to light and a fresh day. When you pass out of your physical body you truly go right out to the dawn. We can speak from experience – *we can speak from experience* – you can really, but you have forgotten. You just go right out into a lovely dawn, so why fear death? And remember the power of God heals all disease and all sorrow. Nothing is incurable in God. So, forward my friends, brethren; young eaglets, take up your life with joy, go forward into the New Year and may you be full of power and energy and thanksgiving for the progress which each day brings to your soul. A very happy and blessed New Year to everyone. Obey the rules, you have nothing to fear.

He Who is all love is here; a gentle, strong and wise Presence is before you, offering you the Bread of Heaven, the Wine of the Spirit. Eat and drink these spiritual symbols and be filled with the succour, the food, the sustenance of Heaven. Amen.

Look forward; life goes on and on and on getting ever more beautiful – we have spoken.

### Brother Faithful:

I said earlier that tonight marks a new stage, a new step forward in the work of this London Lodge. For twenty-five years we have worked and waited; and now we are getting greater comfort and new inspiration.

We have heard the loving searching momentous address tonight which surely confirms what was said – it comes to us – to each one of us as a new call and challenge to do that work in the world which we alone can do for ourselves and for humanity – to spread each in his or her own way the Light, the Light, the Light of Christ amongst the lives of men.

And so, we come to our closing hymn No.565,

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‘Lord of all hopefulness; Lord of all joy.’

*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:*

*inspiration, illumination, enlightenment, inner light, life after death, rebirth, law of cause and effect, optimism, communication, relationships, challenges, inner thought, inner peace, truth within, intuition, spiritual contact, inner voice, positive thought, thought power, eternal life*

