

The White Dove

A422 Sunday Address 7th June 1970 St Mary Abbots Place, London Service of
Worship and Communion

Text: typescript by MB; a top copy. Marked by YGH 'OK for Whitsun 1972 (with a good deal of cutting)'. The title is chosen for this project; when the address was printed two months after it was given, in August 1970, the title was 'Why does God permit suffering?'

Context: because the Whitsun service was held at New Lands, London had missed out on one, and this address somewhat covers the same ground, with mention of the Comforter. It fell short of the Christ Moon, however, which was full on the 18th of the month, although White Eagle mentions it as upcoming. MB notes, 'The Altar looked lovely, as usual, with daintily arranged flowers of many kinds each side, and at the foot of the Altar was a bowl of exquisite roses in honour of the approaching birthday of dear Minesta'. The opening hymn was no. 494, 'For the beauty of the earth'. Minesta's invocation was recorded elsewhere, and the reading was from *THE LIVING WORD*, chapter 16 (pp 166–7, omitting the final paragraph. IC noted, 'That message came through during the war in that little chapel at the back through which you walk, with sirens going and guns'. The chapel mentioned was the one known as the Grace Chapel, although in the year the *LIVING WORD* teaching was given, it was a larger room. Then came the hymn, 'Come down, O Love Divine' (no 177, doubtless to the tune 'Down Ampney'). Then came the usual prayers, after which the Choir sang 'Beloved, let us love', presumably to the music of Orlando Gibbons. MB characteristically calls it 'Beautifully rendered'. After the address, and thus at the end of the service, MB records, 'Exquisite organ music'. Brother Faithful announced hymn 578, the Battle Hymn of the Republic, and Minesta gave a Benediction, recorded elsewhere. The Choir closed with the Vesper. MB noted, 'As always the Lodge is filled with beautiful music before and after each Service'.

General notes: this is a very long address. White Eagle's first point is that it is man himself who has drawn a veil between himself and the God life. The development of imagination is a crucial tool in correcting this. A central message of the address is that we should understand what is meant by becoming as a little child, which White Eagle somewhat equates with overcoming the world (see 'References'). Those who have overcome the world, in the true sense, are those whom it is right to call saints. True spiritual vision may surprise us by showing sainthood in the very people we dismissed among our friends on earth.

The address also adds to our understanding of what the name, the Comforter, means. Sometimes elsewhere it feels almost as though all White Eagle takes from it is deep comfort in bereavement. Here, it is clear that that comfort is not just balm for painful emotions, but a moment of full spiritual realisation. This is much closer to the more widely accepted understanding. Later, White Eagle goes on to speak of the Comforter as the White Dove and confirms that it is true spiritual realisation.

There is an important outcome to this: 'We are here to help you all, to train you to reach that transcendental consciousness, not to raise you from the earth and its practical demands, but to strengthen you in your daily life, to give you the wisdom to live your life to its very full[est]'. White Eagle speaks of a teacher from his own earthly time of incarnation, thousands of years back, when the same soul who was Jesus of Nazareth brought them illumination.

Lastly, there is quite topical teaching (see 'Historical Note') about earthquakes and natural disasters and how merciful they are in their effects. It is man, not God, who creates suffering.

References: the familiar verse about becoming as a little child is Matthew 18 : 3. The conversation Jesus had with his disciples before the crucifixion, which include mention of the Comforter and John 14-16 and known as the Farewell Discourses. Jesus did not actually say, 'My Father in Heaven loves you and He will send you the Comforter', but at John 14 : 15-16 he did say, 'If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever'. For loving thy neighbour as thyself, and loving God with all heart and soul and mind, see Matthew 22 : 37-9 (White Eagle transposes the two statements, and repeats the reference to loving with heart and soul later in the address). 'I have overcome the world' is John 16 :

The White Dove

A422 Sunday Address 7th June 1970 St Mary Abbots Place, London Service of
Worship and Communion

33. King Canute (994-1035) was famous as the Viking king who in legend tried to command the tide to turn back.

Historical note: White Eagle answers a thought-question about natural disasters, mentioning earthquakes. On May 31, a week before this address, an earthquake in Peru is estimated to have killed 79,000 people. Earlier in the year, a Turkish earthquake had killed over 1000 and in January a Chinese earthquake killed 10,000. For the roses mentioned at the end, see 'Context' – they were given in commemoration of Minesta's birthday.

White Eagle's Address:

Beloved brethren of the physical plane of life, we who live in the spirit world come to speak to you through a physical instrument. For few people at the present time have developed their inner hearing or their inner vision,; and so the world of spirit, which is indeed the heaven world, is shut away from man in his physical life.

Now, is this what God intended? No! because God has so created man that he has powers, inner powers or soul powers which he will learn to use when he understands Divine Law. Now, there are many people who think that God did not intend man to draw aside the veil between life of the flesh on the physical plane and the higher world of spirit. Now if this is so, why have some men and women been endowed with the gifts of the spirit? For what God gives to one child of His, He gives to all His children. But mankind, because he has disobeyed that Divine Law through many ages, he has closed the veil. He has drawn this dark veil between himself and that heaven world, or that glorious world which God has created for him.

Now, we mean this in two senses. Not only is man to draw aside the veil and look into a life behind it to see what happens to mankind after death, but He has gifted man so that he can open his vision and his heart and his understanding to the power and the beauty and the glory of spirit as it manifests through matter. People go into a lovely garden and they will admire the beauty and form and colour and perfume. And they will study all the Latin names of the plants and trees, and the foreign names of the vegetation in that lovely garden. Now, something touches their spirit from that garden. But few men recognise the truth that what is touching them is the Love of God, the Beauty of God, the Peace of God. All the truth which God would unfold to His children is there in the creation of natural form, which men on earth can see and sense and smell and feel. He is in touch with a world of spirit through nature, but man does not look at these things as manifestations or demonstrations of the beauty and the love in the Creator. Because remember that all these beautiful things on the earth are created by the Divine Mind, not by accident. And if people say, 'but it is a natural law', what is a natural law but the outworking of a perfect plan? And that Plan is laid by the Great Architect of the Universe.

Now, we want you to use your imagination at this point in our short talk to you. Use your imagination, close down that active earthly mind and seek to enter the temple of the spirit, the temple of prayer, deep, deep within your own soul. Pray humbly that you may respond to the

The White Dove

A422 Sunday Address 7th June 1970 St Mary Abbots Place, London Service of
Worship and Communion

divine love and creative power that you may create by your own gift of imagination the temple of prayer in the heavens.

Let us take you into this white temple that you may see the company of Shining Ones, amongst them those whom you love. Now, we make no differentiations between life at the present time or of life beyond the present time in a world of spirit. We are trying to bring to you, beloved children, the consciousness that you live in a world of spirit – not only in a world of physical matter.

Now this is something which you must cultivate. You know that the Great Master Jesus said, so it is written in your Christian Gospels, 'Except a man becomes as a little child he can in no wise enter the Kingdom of Heaven'. As man's brain, his earthly mind, is cluttered with material anxieties, material things and the enjoyment of physical things, purely bodily things, he can in no wise enter that Kingdom of Heaven. Now, don't mistake what we say, we don't mean that man should not fully enjoy his life on earth. Man is created to be happy, to find happiness and to give happiness. This is the purpose of man's creation onto the earth plane, but he has yet to learn that by opening his awareness or his consciousness to this heaven world, and to all the great company of heaven, he can find that peace and joy which can be his if he will only discipline himself, his physical life and desires, and open his heart to love, *real love*. We do not mean emotion, which is of the self, of the lower self. We mean a feeling that he belongs to the grand brotherhood of all life. And he has the gift within himself to contribute to the happiness of all his brethren.

Now, this seems perhaps to you an impossible prospect, but may we remind you that at the time of the crucifixion of Jesus, just before the crucifixion of His physical body, He spoke with great earnestness to His followers, to His disciples. He spoke to them of the life beyond the physical life. He told His disciples that although they would not see Him He would give to them – He would send to them a Comforter.

Now, the orthodox church has been waiting and looking for this Comforter for nearly two thousand years, but there have been men and women throughout that period who have laid down their physical lives. We do not mean by death. We mean sacrificing the demands of the physical body in order to find the truth about God's love. As Jesus said, 'My Father in heaven loves you and He will send you the Comforter'. But you know people look for the Comforter in the wrong way. But down through the ages and through the past two thousand years many men and women have withdrawn from the world, and they have become what the world calls saints.

Now there are numerous, innumerable, countless saints. Not only the saints of the orthodox church, but saints in everyday life. There have been men and women who have lived sainted lives. And there are still men and women who live sainted lives. They do not live for self. They live to worship and love their Creator, and obey His law. And His law is, 'Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God with all thy heart and soul and mind'. Now, in nearly every talk we give you in this Lodge we quote these words, because we know that the whole of the Christian or religious philosophy is built upon this foundation. These words, spoken by the Christos through the mouth of Jesus of Nazareth, this

The White Dove

A422 Sunday Address 7th June 1970 St Mary Abbots Place, London Service of
Worship and Communion

is *truth*. And He also said, 'I have overcome this world'. People don't know what He meant by that, even today. Only the few sainted ones know because they have endured. They have been true to that inner light, that inner vision which has shown them the glory of heaven, and of their Creator.

Now, you see this is not just one flash of inspiration, or even vision. It is a continual unfoldment in the soul, the vision of the heaven world, and of God, and of the saints. Do you on earth ever think how much you owe to the sainted ones of this earth plane? Very few ever give it a thought. But man now is enjoying certain blessings which have come to him as the result of sainted lives, the devotion to duty, the devotion to God, to divine law, to other people. This is a thought that we leave with you.

And around you now you may see with this inner vision, which has been opened in you since we raised your consciousness to the White Temple of the Spirit. There they are, these sainted ones, these dear ones of the Shining Spirit. But remember this, my children, that there are even your own nearest and dearest, whom you saw through a weary body, or perhaps irritable with nervous tension, or perhaps with physical pain or weariness of great work and service on the earth. You failed to see behind that individual that true spirit, that child of God. And this is what we come back from the world of spirit to explain to you, to cultivate that true vision – not only into a world of spirit, but into your own world, and see all the beauty in that world, and in your fellow men. It is not easy, we know. And particularly at the present time there is a tremendous power – we are going to say – being let loose.

There is, as we approach the Christ Festival, which will be in full power about the middle of this month, there will be – there is already coming now – this tremendous outpour[ing] of the Christ spirit to humanity. Now when there comes such a blessing it stimulates the life of all kinds on the earth, and in man's spirit, in man's soul. So you will find an increase of antagonism and darkness which rises to combat the glory of the Christos, the glory of the Son of God as it comes into the earthly life of man.

We referred a little while ago to the Comforter. And Jesus said, 'I will send you a Comforter'. Now what did He mean by this? Now it is our work, my children, to endeavour to help people on earth, particularly those who are bereaved, those who have lost the physical presence of a loved one. And they come to us crying out for proof, for proof, for proof. They have yet to learn that spirit does not give material proof. Spirit communicates with spirit, and without any doubt about it, spirit meets spirit. And we have to say to all those who demand proof, it does not matter what proof it is you are seeking, whether it is the proof of spirit return, of continuation of life after death, or whether it is proof of a more intellectual nature, or even scientific nature, the proof comes into man's own heart.

We believe there is a little funny story, a little quotation that we have heard on your earth, 'A man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still'. And so, my children, you will realise that it is quite useless for a visitant from the spirit world to try and convince a man or woman against their will. But God has provided man with certain powers – shall we say, a built-in microphone in his heart through which he can communicate, and a speaker in his heart through which he can listen to the sounds of a higher level, a higher ether.

The White Dove

A422 Sunday Address 7th June 1970 St Mary Abbots Place, London Service of
Worship and Communion

Now, you[r] scientists already glimpse, or you feel that there must be laws which control the invisible worlds around you. But you do not understand them yet. And we dare to say that when the scientist and the spiritual man on earth meet and agree there will be a tremendous step forward upon the path of man's spiritual evolution. The Comforter, the Comforter symbolised by that White Dove which has been seen so many times. Sometimes people have said, 'Oh I imagined it, when I saw a beautiful white bird'.

Now, what you all have to learn is that imagination is the creative gift of the Spirit. All that you have on your earth built or created is the result of an idea which has come to the man or woman from the plane of idea, the plane of creative power. And that idea has touched and been received by a certain part of man's physical brain, which is there for the purpose of a receiving station. This has yet to be discovered by the earthly scientists.

The doctors do not know yet why there are, shall we say, blank spaces in the brain, which seem to have no connection with the material life. They will learn in time. They are already beginning to get a glimpse of the possibilities which are in man's mind, brain – we say, soul and heart.

And the White Dove which comes into your midst which you see through your imagination symbolizes the Comforter, the impression of truth, the messenger which conveys to man wisdom and knowledge of the Kingdom of Heaven both after death, and before death. Now, when man has seen and heard this messenger he does not need any kind of material proof, or scientific proof, because he says, 'I know, for I have seen and I have heard the message from those higher spheres of life'.

And this is why we are here to help you all, to train you to reach that transcendental consciousness, not to raise you from the earth and its practical demands, but to strengthen you in your daily life, to give you the wisdom to live your life to its very full[est]. To live your life, not for you, for yourself, but for God, and in the service of God – which means, of course, co-operation with the ancient law of brotherhood. It is no new teaching, it is as old as the world itself. You may be surprised if we tell you that many, many thousands of years ago when we were living in a physical body on your earth, in a land in the West (we won't mention names, you know the land we mean), there our brethren listened to the teachings of one whom we called the Saint. Sometimes he was called the Great Healer. He was the same Great Teacher – shall we say, the saviour of mankind – as Jesus of Nazareth. Our saint and healer was a channel. And through him shone the Christos, that heavenly light, that Great One, who is not only the infinite and eternal, but is also an individual.

Remember children, that all the great ones have achieved their greatness through their life, through individuality, through their training in a body, a form, which God created for them in His own image. But man today casts aside this ancient truth. But it is pressing, pressing, *pressing* home in many degrees, in many ways on your earth plane. Today there are so many people who just become interested in what they call the occult, or they become interested in astrology, or they become interested in Spiritualism and kindred subjects. You see you cannot hold back the sea: the tide is rolling in. The [King] Canutes, sitting on the shore, say, 'Go

The White Dove

A422 Sunday Address 7th June 1970 St Mary Abbots Place, London Service of
Worship and Communion

back, we will not have you'. But the powers that be just smile because they know that the great waves of truth and spiritual knowledge must come to humanity.

And we ask you all tonight to listen to our words, and to make a practice when grief comes to you, when anxiety comes, or trouble, or sickness, [to] do your best to withdraw your thoughts from the visitation on the outer plane, and seek to make that communion with your Father in Heaven.

Before we sit down, or before we seat our instrument down, we must answer a question which we have felt beating upon our aura. And this is the question which has come to us. 'How do you account for the catastrophes of earthquakes, and these physical happenings which bring so much sorrow and suffering to the people. Surely, that is not a God of Love?'

Now, we will answer this question in two or three different ways. You are unable to understand the laws of nature and the law of equilibrium or balance which must be maintained on the physical plane, as well as on all the other planes of life. Remember this. What you have to do is to understand the law of equilibrium. Secondly, those souls who lose their physical bodies suddenly in a terrible catastrophe, all is prepared for them. They are taken care of in the most beautiful way. They hardly know what has happened. They find themselves carrying on their life in their old way until the time comes for them to be quickened so that they can see what has taken place. And those who are wounded or who suffer? Remember this, my children, that human life has called upon itself suffering. No doubt you do not agree with this. You will argue, you will deny White Eagle is speaking truth. Nevertheless, it is the truth. Man creates and calls to himself pain and suffering. And it is only through the experience of pain and suffering, firstly in the physical state of life, that man gradually awakens to his true nature, and to the love of his Creator.

Lastly, may we say that it is right for man to be as wise and careful as he can in his place, in his conditions of life. There are so many trials and so much suffering to people through their own self-will and carelessness. They know perfectly well in some places that there is a danger spot of an earthquake, or of a volcano. They go and sit on that very dangerous spot. They live and build their homes right under the volcano's mouth, and they think and say, 'It is an act of God'. So, you see what we mean. Man has a responsibility to use his own sense. But when a catastrophe, a natural catastrophe overtakes an individual, do remember that underneath that pain and suffering there is a love and a wisdom taking care of it which you in your present state of life cannot possibly see or understand. This also applies to every human problem that you may have, however uncomfortable, however unpleasant. But if only you can hold fast to the Comforter which God has sent you, you will know that you will come out alright, safe and sound and enriched on all the planes of your being.

So, my children, be comforted, put your hand in the hand of the Great White Spirit. You have no idea yet of the beauty of the fruits of the Spirit which are prepared for you when you have learnt 'to love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and soul and mind, and thy neighbour as thyself'. Then there will be no more cruelty, no more cruelty: all will be dissolved in the love of the Infinite.

The White Dove

A422 Sunday Address 7th June 1970 St Mary Abbots Place, London Service of
Worship and Communion

And here we have roses around us everywhere for our communion. My children, come with us in your imagination into the spirit garden, into that infinite and eternal garden of the spirit, the enclosed garden of roses, where all is peace and love and beauty. There your loved one will come to you and speak into your heart of love which is eternal. And you cannot be separated from anyone you love when your love is of God and of Him.

And above all human companionship comes the Great Master, the Christos, the light, the Son of God. He lays his hand upon the head of every one present, blessing you. And you feel from him the power of the spirit flowing through you as he asks you to partake of that symbol, the heavenly symbol, which is the symbol of his cosmic body, the whole of life, the whole of Creation. Take into yourself, eat the bread, the cosmic body of the Lord Christ. Sip from the grail cup the divine essence, which is all love, the Comforter ... the Comforter, the heavenly food and wine. Your Father's gift to you, His child.

So with all the power in our hearts we thank Thee, Heavenly Father, for this Thy blessing of eternal life.

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:

spiritual development, psychic studies, clairvoyance, telepathy, spiritual laws, messiah, spiritual work, spiritual service, divine plan, God's plan, trust in God, heaven world, world of light, spirit world, holy spirit, peace, natural world, nature kingdom, garden of reunion, orthodox religion, catholic church, bible studies, science, natural disasters, apocalypse, tragedies, catastrophes, great laws