

In His Own Image

A134 Sunday Address 2nd July 1944 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, May 1945

Context: the date given to this address is entirely conjectural. Its publication in May 1945 would often imply it was given in March that year, at the service on the 4th of the month, but unless there were two addresses in March, that place has been ascribed to the address headed 'The Brotherly Way', for good internal reasons. 3 December 1944 is the most recent date for which no address appears to exist for a day that would normally have offered a service, but it seems more likely that it could be from the service believed to have been held on 2 July that year. Nothing in the address itself gives a hint as to the context or even to the season of the year, but the statement 'the world of today is in hell fire' would seem to imply that it is a wartime talk, particularly in view of the intensity of bombing at this time (see 'Historical Note' below and notes introducing the address of 1 October 1944). Also, it would not be unreasonable to expect some mention of Advent if the December date were correct.

General Notes: Despite White Eagle's reluctance to speak about hell or hell fire, he gave an address on 6 July 1941 to which exactly that title – 'The Fires of Hell' – was later given. The discussion of why a perfected soul would wish to return to earth, in the fourth paragraph, is reminiscent of what is known as the Bodhisattva Vow.

References: the idea that God made man 'in His own image' derives from Genesis 1 : 27. 'When you pray, enter into the innermost sanctuary' is a rendering of Matthew 6 : 6. Shortly after there is a submerged reference to John 14 : 6: 'I am the way, the truth and the life'.

Historical note: bombing by V1 and later V2 rockets became so intense this month that activities were suspended at St Mary Abbots Place.

White Eagle's Address:

All through the ages teachers have come to the earth to help man to realise the two aspects of his nature – light and darkness, good and evil – the pull of heaven and the pull of hell upon his soul. It may seem strange to some to hear the world hell and still more strange if we spoke of hell fire. Yet in truth the world of today is in hell fire – if not the kind of hell which humanity, and Christians in particular, are used to picture. Nevertheless, the suffering which man endures, due to his response to the lower elements in life, is terrible and yet drawn to man by his own choice. Some may question these words, but we claim that they are true.

The visions of heaven which come to the children of God, whether in a physical life or released from the body, teach the soul that God's will for man is not suffering but happiness. Despite this, many people believe in the necessity for human suffering, the answer they give to those who suffer being that it is good for man to suffer, because only through suffering will he learn. Learn what? Through suffering man turns to seek the Source of his life, his Creator, he looks at last to something above himself and beyond the world. Nevertheless men despair when they see the inhumanity of man towards his brother.

Messengers visit the world today as they have come throughout the ages – but they are not always recognised as such by mankind. The teachers, sages and saints of the past when departed from this earth do not dwell forever in some sphere of everlasting bliss but descend

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again to help humanity find happiness. When a soul is released from the prisonhouse of flesh, after a certain process of purification, it enters into a state of heavenly bliss which can be described as pure happiness. Surrounded by beauty and love in the higher sphere it commences to question its companions, its teachers, its elder brethren, asking why it should find itself in such happiness. The answer comes: because you have withdrawn from conflict and darkness; by a process of spiritual evolution you have blended evil and good into a perfect whole. In this state of life (which can be likened to the Garden of Eden) you have eaten of the tree of knowledge of good and evil; meaning you have learned how to balance the two aspects so that there is no longer conflict in you. Therefore, you are surrounded by eternal and all-enfolding love. All that you look upon appears beautiful because you have learned to withdraw from conflict and to find peace within.

This, my friends, is the object of life: to gain knowledge of both good and evil. Doubtless some of you will now ask the question: 'If the soul enters into this state of bliss in the higher spheres of life, why should it ever return or reincarnate upon the earth?' This is a great stumbling block to many truth seekers. They cannot understand the need for reincarnation when once the soul, having endured its share of conflict and suffering, enters upon a life of perfect happiness. There are two reasons why the soul will reincarnate. Not every soul returns to earth because it is forced to. Some return because they have seen and realised and experienced happiness in the spheres above, a happiness which they learn should be also the portion of man on the earth. Having realised this great truth the soul asks that it may return to the earth to pass on its message to suffering humanity. Beloved brethren, could you yourselves enjoy your happiness, knowing that others you love suffer through ignorance and knowing that by your service to your loved ones you could brighten their lives? Of course you could not withhold such service. Your natural response would be: 'Oh, let me go and help them to attain a happiness like my own'.

We speak from the heart when we say there is no doubt at all that God created man to enjoy happiness and not to suffer. God endowed every soul with the potentiality for good, for happiness; and also for evil, conflict and suffering. He also placed within man's heart the gift of freewill. There is within everyone an urge either for selfishness or for selflessness. Selfishness is the downward pull, the pull of the lower self with which every man, woman and child is familiar. But there is also the pull of the higher self, which originates from a knowledge implanted deep in the innermost of man's being. Only by following this inner voice can the soul rise above suffering, above conflict, and live in a sphere of harmony, peace and happiness. You may not agree with us? Nevertheless, through your own experience you will learn that what we say is true. You need not necessarily learn through suffering – though suffering can cause the soul to pause, to question itself and to seek a different way.

Many a teacher throughout the ages has come to give this message. It is found written in all the Scriptures, in the religions of all time: the same message was given by the Master Jesus, who said, 'When you pray, enter into the innermost sanctuary and fasten the door'. What does that mean? This: be still in mind and body and know God. And this: set a time apart every day to withdraw from the world and all its clamour and enter into the innermost of your own heart, your own soul and there pray; or in other words seek communion with the eternal

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light, the supreme Being. Called by many names, this is the one supreme truth of life. It is light, perfection, beauty, justice, wisdom, knowledge, truth, gentleness, meekness, love and all the godlike attributes of which man is capable. All that is true and beautiful in life lies deep, deep within every soul – and that is God, the Source from which every soul derives its being. So, if the soul enters in to hold communion or truly pray to its Creator, the bandage of materialism, the bandage which brings man to darkness and despair, falls from its eyes. The soul then beholds the truth of its being; beholds the sphere of light, happiness and bliss prepared for all souls who will to enter into it by the path of humility, simplicity, and earnest seeking of the life, the way and the truth. Through these periods of true prayer or meditation, the upper self becomes quickened, opened up, instead of lying sleeping in the darkness. The light pours into it and it becomes aware that it lives.

Now we touch on the vexed question of reincarnation. The question arises again and again, ‘If reincarnation were true, why can’t we remember our past?’ But there are many people who remember clearly their past incarnations and in little children are many, many instances where the immediate past incarnation is recalled with clarity, to the astonishment of their parents. If you are unconvinced that reincarnation is one of the laws of life, you can obtain your own proof; for if you will patiently and faithfully pray, meditate or hold communion in your innermost being with the supreme Light, you will rise in consciousness and make contact with your higher self, wherein are stored all memories of the past. When you touch these akashic records (which are within every living soul) the whole panorama of your past will unfold and you will understand many things in your nature which you have not understood before. Having understanding of the law and of yourself, you will know that God did not intend man to suffer in this physical life; He intended man to live in concord and consciousness of his higher self. ‘How can that be’, you will ask, ‘with the world in its present chaos?’ My brethren, even in these days of conflict and cruelty and suffering there is a way, shall we say, of escape (although we do not like the word) – by which man can live at least in tranquillity, calmness and peace. Because the soul has knowledge and wisdom it will know the causes behind all suffering and that [*sic*] as soon as mankind seeks the higher and sheds the lower self, there ceases to be ugliness and conflict.

Do you not begin to see the purpose of this message? The law of reincarnation goes hand in hand with the law of cause and effect. When man understands these laws, man will fashion his life in a different way and the world be built on a different plan. Man’s consciousness will be awakened to the journey which lies before him and he will know that he cannot inflict suffering upon the least of God's creatures without calling that same suffering upon himself in due course; he will know that he cannot escape one tiny fraction of the ill which he has inflicted upon others, for that ill will reflect itself back into his own life in some place, at some time.

When the death of the body occurs, the soul is released from mortal bondage and it passes through a process of elimination of all that is unwanted in the next world. It enters into a state of quiescence – call it heavenly bliss if you like. There it hears the true clear call of God which awakens its spiritual life. It sets forth again upon its journey, the prime object of which

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is so to live and learn that eventually the perfect balance between good and evil in itself is attained and the soul becomes a perfect son of God.

We look upon the masters, elder brethren and the saviours of all time and we see in these Great Ones the perfecting of life. They are neither all good nor all evil, but a perfect blending; each has become a perfectly balanced being, as symbolised in the six-pointed star – the two interlaced triangles of which represent the interpenetration of spirit and matter. Eventually the reincarnating soul will gain perfect balance, radiance and happiness, even on this physical plane. We would remind you that God has placed on earth all the means of happiness. He has created a wonderful and beautiful being in man. He has created a perfect vehicle in the physical body through which man may enjoy all the gifts and the beauties of physical life. If it were not so there would be no sense or purpose in life at all.

God created man out of His own substance, in His own image. When we realise this truth, when we behold the glorious vision which opens before us, we can take fresh hope and enter into communion and prayer with our beloved Father–Mother God; we can strive to live at peace and in harmony with our brother man; and we can walk our path in joy and thanksgiving for our creation, our preservation and all the gifts of spiritual and physical life. Peace be with us all ... and happiness. 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:

punishment, guides, inner peace, repentance, life after death, rebirth, intuition, light within, spiritual contact, past lives, spirit world, world of light, judgment