

Creating through Imagination

A370 Sunday Address 24th January 1965 St Mary Abbots Place, London New Year Service

Text: MB typescript, a top copy heavily worked on by IC. He has inserted a title, 'Life ever increasing, ever more radiant'. The address was printed in *Stella Polaris*, April-May 1965, under the ubiquitous title, 'New Year Message'. In the second paragraph we have altered the typist's 'discardance' to 'discarding'; and in a later one, beginning 'And now, dear brethren' we have altered 'interned' to 'interred'.

Context: MB's description is a trifle confusing in that she has recorded a little more than usual of the words surrounding the announcements of hymns and readings. It would seem that the first hymn was one rarely otherwise recorded in these services, namely no. 475 in *Songs of Praise*, 'Come now, all people, keep high mirth, | Let all unite to share it'. Then Minesta gave an invocation, recorded elsewhere; it was followed by a reading from Revelation. This was 21 : 1-7 and a later verse, through to v. 25. Brother Faithful says the theme of the reading was anticipated by the hymn and the prayer. He then introduces the second hymn, 'I vow to thee, my country', no. 319. That inspired him for the Prayer for Humanity; after which YGH gave a solo with the Choir in 'Lead me, Lord; lead me in Thy righteousness', an anthem by Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-76). MB says it was 'very beautifully rendered'. At the end, Brother Faithful gave his usual few words, recorded here, and Minesta gave a benediction, recorded elsewhere. The final hymn, announced by Brother Faithful, was 'Breathe on me, breath of God, | Fill me with life anew' (452). Brother Faithful commented, 'It is that new life we must absorb and give out'. The Choir then sang 'Hail Gladdening Light', doubtless in place of the Lodge Vesper, and in the setting by Stainer.

General notes: White Eagle rejects the idea that modern society is irreligious – he regards the seeming rejection of religion as 'a clearing of the mists'. He also says that if we wish to see God, it is to our fellow beings and to nature that we must look. Nonetheless he also proclaims the need for humans on earth to recognise the invisible. There is useful teaching about imagination as the foundation of psychic awareness. In speaking of how far away the Golden Age feels to be, White Eagle reminds us of the advance humanity has made over the fifty years past. By coincidence this presentation of the address has been created fifty years later – after enormous progress, yet readers might still feel there is a long way to go before the Golden Age begins. The reason, though, is to get his listeners creating the perfect future. There is a topical section in which we see the soul of Winston Churchill (see 'Historical note', below) awakening in the higher world; a lovely description of the butterfly emerging from its chrysalis. In referring to Churchill's love of gardens White Eagle reminds us of his painting hobby. This moment takes us forward into the communion at the end, one in which, unusually, there is an extended communication in words from the Christ.

References: 'those who have passed through great tribulation' is Revelation 7 : 14; 'God is a spirit, and they that worship him' is John 4 : 24; and 'The tabernacle of God is with men' is from the reading to this service, Revelation 21 : 3.

Historical note: there is a section about someone who has recently passed into the world of spirit and whom the nation mourns. This must surely be Winston Churchill, who had died on the very morning of this address, 24 January.

White Eagle's New Year Message:

Beloved, beloved children of earth, we speak from the spirit life. We bring to you all the love and blessing of our company of shining brethren – you may call them the 'White Brotherhood'. But these are they who have passed through great tribulation, and who have passed out into the light, in[to] the golden light of the world of God. For God is spirit, and those who worship Him must do so in spirit.

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Now, we want to make this very clear to you in our message of tonight. For we stand, or you stand, at the beginning of the year, and we remind you that at this special time there is One who leads all faithful hearts on the Path of God. Now, there is much doubt and indeed disbelief on earth, or so it would appear to you. But we wish to remind you that it is not as you think – a breaking up of religion in the human life. It is not a discarding of religious need and belief, but it is a clearing of the mists of superstition which appears to be causing man to disbelieve in spirit, a disbelief in God.

Now, you have heard the words read from your Christian Bible, ‘the tabernacle of God is with men’. And we suggest to you that the tabernacle of God is man’s physical being, man’s physical body and his life. And in that tabernacle God is found. It is, in other words, God’s spirit in man. ‘The tabernacle of God is with men.’ And it is to your fellow beings that you must look, as well as to the world of nature, and above nature to the heavenly worlds and systems in outer space, for the manifestation of that supreme intelligence and power and wisdom and love.

Now, it is helpful to you to hear this message from us once again. The company of the spirit brotherhood is with you now. There is indeed a power of the spirit now blessing you, assuring you that as you will draw closer to the realization of life beyond death – life invisible all around you – you will find yourself guided, cared for and led along your particular path of service.

Let us remember that the real purpose of man’s life in a physical body on earth is first of all to evolve on every plane of being, to develop wisdom, to increase knowledge; and above all to increase his love for God. And if man increases his love for God, the Great Spirit, he must necessarily develop in his soul a love for his fellow creatures; for the God within man teaches man the ways of justice and love and brotherhood, a caring for fellow creatures – creating a true imagination in his higher mind for the sufferings of others and the needs of others.

We know that you are as children in a world which seems to you to be chaotic, but if you will patiently persevere on the path of spiritual development, unfolding those godlike powers within you, you will have an ever increasing vision of the world of spirit, which is the kingdom, the Holy City, described by St John – revealed to St John, who was and is the Light Bringer.

We want you to be sure of this: that if you quietly, trustfully obey that inner voice which tells you through the love in your heart what is the right way to act, you will surely create a life of joy, happiness and you will be fulfilling the law. You will be doing the work that you were sent on earth to do.

Now, my dear brethren, there is so much for every man to learn – so much for you individually to discover – not only about your physical things and natural law, but about this mysterious godlike power, Divine Intelligence, which is behind all life, and which is ever pressing you and all creation forward. We want very specially on this occasion to direct your vision forward. In your own lives on earth look forward – *forward* – anticipate. By anticipating good and anticipating blessings and happiness you are drawing such things to

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you. You are creating through your imagination. Now remember the imagination is part of the great psychic gift, which is implanted in man's soul. Therefore, we say to you from spirit use your heavenly imagination. Imagine yourself in a state of perfect health, imagine yourself in a state of harmony. If your conditions are inharmonious, then imagine they are becoming smoother and better. You see, imagination is the key to creation.

Now, we cannot impress upon you too strongly to think in terms of progress, of happiness and of achievement; and you will become healthy and happy. Now this is our special message for you as you stand at the beginning of a New Year. For as you image your conditions, so you are setting into operation the machinery which will bring about the very picture which is in your mind.

And now, dear brethren, we want to take you through the veil of physical matter into a state of life which is beyond the physical mind, the brain, the lower mind, to understand. You live encased in physical matter, in flesh, and you are held down to earth; and your mind, your earthly mind, puts a heavy stone upon you, fastens you well down – which will remind you of places of interment – where people in the past were interred after they had left the physical body, and a nice flat stone was laid upon the place of burial. Now, this is a very good symbol of what happens to man through his own mind. His own mind holds him down by a material stone, a material conception of life. But you know as well as we can tell you that there is this awakening now coming to humanity, an awakening of spirit within which is causing man to search for knowledge, to search for the truth of life.

Many people still say, 'I wish I could believe', but there are many more people who say, 'I do know, I am sure that there is a continuation of life and an unfoldment of the spirit. I know that I am journeying forward to a world which will become full of light'. Now, again you see our lesson about imagination. So many of you like to think of the spirit world and the happiness and the beauty there, but it does not often occur to you that the happiness and beauty of the spirit life has to be brought into human and physical life. As above, so below. And as you journey forward in your spiritual development and service to your fellow creatures, you will be a builder of this new earth, which is surely coming, the Golden Age. How far away it seems to you, possibly, but if you will remember how much humanity has progressed in the past fifty years, you will perhaps feel ashamed to have thought even that man is in a worse state now than he was a century ago.

We want you to rise in spirit into that world of light, and there see the life which is as perfect as man can make it. And then bring (through your imagination) a state of life on earth where man is truly living the life of kindness and justice and goodness towards his fellow beings.

We would take you through the veil into the World of Spirit. Now, for you, all your nation, all your earth world is thinking of that life which has just been withdrawn from the physical body. The thoughts of men and women in your country particularly, and even in this City are centring upon that physical shell. They are thinking thoughts of sorrow and gloom. And we take you through the curtain into the light to which that soul has come – perfect beauty. He was a man who loved flowers and gardens and animals and colour and all beauty that soul yearned for. And now he has his eyes opened. He is now at this moment awakening to a scene

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of perfect beauty in colour and form. He is a great soul. And he has been the instrument of God to help you and all people like you. We regret criticism and harsh words towards any soul, most of all against a noble and great soul, a big soul.

And so we ask our little gathering here to lift up your hearts in love and thankfulness for what that man brought to you. We will not look into the past. We will be thankful for all that has been given to us. And we now are speaking as one of you though we are speaking from spirit – you are spirit too – and you are with us now in thought in imagination in world of spirit: There you will see a smiling face, chubby, the face of a child in its joyful appreciation and thankfulness for the beauty in which it finds itself; and for the countless friends all stretching forth hands to greet and welcome this soul into its spirit life.

Now, this is the picture that we want you to hold, because it is a far truer picture of the state of that great English man that has just left you, than the gloomy thoughts which most people are centering on the shell which has been discarded. Think of the dragonfly as it emerges from the chrysalis, or the butterfly when it unfolds its wings and the sunlight makes the colour so beautiful, and the air creates the perfect condition for the graceful movement of the wings. This is what takes place when the spirit withdraws from the flesh. So, we trust that you will never, never grieve over the shell left on earth. Rise, rise with the beautiful winged spirit which is so full of thankfulness and relief at the being conducted to such beautiful conditions of life. There is no death. Life, life ever increasing, ever growing more beautiful. And you yourselves can rise in imagination in creating that lovely state of spirit life.

Now, let us at this moment visualise the blazing Star of the Christ love, and as we do so let us give thanks to God for life nobly and courageously lived.

And let us hold deep in love the understanding the family left on earth suffering, grieving, regretting the passing of the father, the grandfather and the great grandfather of that family. We hold them in the power of the Christ light that all darkness and grief may be dissolved.

And we pray, O God, that the people will all receive a precious gift added to the jewels which they have already received – jewels of truth about the spirit and the life progressing, ever progressing onward and upward.

And now, brethren, once more using your own inner power of imaginative creation, come into the temple of the universal brotherhood in the spirit world. There see the heavenly hosts, and before you the simple humble presence of the Great Lord of this planet – called by many names – the great light and being which has manifested in more or less degree through many, many world teachers through the ages. But there in spirit he stands, humbly and simply. And oh, the love, which is pouring from him to the earth, on every individual on the earth, irrespective of race, colour or creed.

Let us draw close in spirit to that Great Teacher of love, gentleness, kindness and brotherliness, and feel, feel the power, feel the blessing of that sweet being, the Lord Christ – you call it the Golden One – all love, the Grand Master of your solar system.

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'I come' are His words. 'I bring to you your saving grace, for My spirit is in you. I bring you the symbols of the Bread and the Wine, the symbols of the heavenly food, the Bread of Heaven, which comes to you in many forms during your life on earth. But in Heaven it is symbolized as simple bread, corn, the grass of the earth corn. I offer you the fruit of the vine, the grapes. But they must be crushed to produce the wine and the juice. But this wine is your succour. It brings to you comfort in times of sorrow. It will never fail you.'

Come, come, my brethren, into the Golden City, the New Jerusalem, because it is new to man when he has discovered the key to the gate, the Twelve Gates of the New Jerusalem, the twelve rays upon which man evolves. And the spirit of love of the Golden One, of the Son of the Infinite Father, He, He gives you from Himself the key and it hangs in your heart – love – love – love. It does not matter what other people do to you, the important thing is what you do – how you live – how you give help to your fellow beings. So do not be hurt by actions of others, because no one would hurt another if he understood what he was doing.

So bless you – bless you. People of earth, be thankful. Every moment of your life, thank God.

Don't forget to look forward to everything that is good. And whatever comes, know that it is just and right and there is something for you to learn from whatever comes.

Now, a happy, a happier, a more blessed and more beautiful year we wish every one of you. For surely, surely God has blessed you and will ever bless you.

Keep on keeping on, my dear, dear ones. All our love from the spirit life. All our love is upon you. Goodnight.

Brother Faithful:

I think most of us here think and feel that we do not worship alone with these walls – that we need not count the size of the congregation by the number of heads, or the number of seats occupied; and that a great number of people from the other side join with us here in worship, and perhaps for all we know gain strength and wisdom and help as we do; that this is a communal worship place, and because it is so and because the two worlds meet here we mortals have power to help those who are in distress by reason of bereavement. We can help them not so much by talking to them, not so much by producing proofs of continuity as the Spiritualists do, but by sympathy, by feeling for them, and most of all by holding them in the light, as we have done tonight. And that is our special mission and our special calling: to heal and to help those who are bereaved, those who are sorrowful. And that brings us to our last hymn, because this is the way to help: hymn: No. 458, 'Breathe on me, breath of God...'

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:

inner light, communion, life after death, rebirth, spiritual contact, spirit world, temple of light, inner peace, garden of reunion, heaven world, world of light, Churchill, war, faith, belief, John the Baptist, prophets, burial, process of death, holy communion, eucharist