

The Bridge to Spirit

A371 Sunday Address 7th March 1965 St Mary Abbots Place, London 29th Anniversary Service

Text: MB acknowledges having missed a word when White Eagle spoke of the Anniversary Party.

Context: MB notes, 'Exquisite white lilies adorned the altar and at the foot of the altar a bouquet of beautiful flowers'. The first hymn was no. 202, 'All people that on earth do dwell', sung, as YGH as Choirmistress announced, to the festival setting by Ralph Vaughan Williams. The trumpet solo presumably came from the organ, played, as MB notes, by Philip Jones, the Lodge's new organist alongside Mary Brameld. Minesta then gave an invocation, described as 'recorded separately'. Then the Choir gave the anthem, 'Beloved, let us love', doubtless in the setting taken from Orlando Gibbons. Brother Faithful, who had introduced the whole service with the words, 'We have gathered here in the spirit of quiet and deep thankfulness to celebrate our 29th Anniversary – which, on looking back, seems quite a long time. On looking forward, one wonders what the next 29th will be', announced the reading by saying 'that was a very lovely anthem. Our reading is very fittingly from the book, THE RETURN OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, from the last chapter headed, "The Healing of the Nations". Here Sir Arthur speaks of the future of humanity, closing on the note of the brotherhood of man.' After another hymn, 'Awake, awake to love and work! (450), he spoke again: 'Once yearly, only on Anniversary Day, we read, we join in two prayers. The first is for our Gentle Brother of the Spirit and the second for his Lodge. And so we pray: 'Master and Lord, we would remember before Thee our gentle Brother of the Spirit...'. Now, the prayer for the Lodge: 'Grant, O loving kindness within us all...'. The normal prayers followed, and the hymn no. 307, 'O brother man, fold to thy heart thy brother'. There was a communion and a blessing of the congregation (see 'General notes', below). The final hymn was 'God is working his purpose out', no. 300.

General notes: White Eagle emphasises the particularly large number of spirit brethren present on this occasion, and also comments on what must have been the anniversary party, held by tradition on the Tuesday evening prior to the service, in this case on 2nd March, according to *Stella Polaris*. White Eagle picked up the thought from someone, 'What will 1965 bring?'. Sadly for Ylana, the Choirmistress, it was to bring, not long after, the collapse of her marriage to Geoffrey Hayward. Later, White Eagle picks up another question, why anyone should bother to bring truths about life to humanity, and what is indeed the reason for any creative activity such as writing or art. He answers that there is in all human beings 'an urge to give forth what he has found to be true and helpful' and speaks at length about the urge spirit beings have to share their happiness. Later, he speaks of the revelation that has gone on in communication within the present generation – radio waves and waves of all kinds. His listeners can scarcely have expected what has gone on since, with near-universal electronic communication between humans. White Eagle has quite a bit to say about spirit communication ('there must be a bridge') and it is particularly notable that he reminds us that communication with spirit was common in ancient times – it is not new to twentieth-century humanity. There is an injunction in this address, given to his listeners by White Eagle, that they must all work to demonstrate the reality of spirit, and of communication with spirit, to their companions on earth. He acknowledges that they will not naturally find it easy to do this. At the end, according to the typist, he blessed the whole congregation with the symbol of the cross of light within the circle of light. It is not clear whether this was the standard ritual he used at the end of each address (but maybe tonight for the first time?) or whether it was a more outward blessing, reaching forward to the congregation.

References: 'I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life' is John 14 : 6. 'As it was in the beginning...'. Is the standard doxology appended to the Lord's Prayer and other prayers.

White Eagle's Address:

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Beloved brethren, members and friends of this White Eagle Lodge on this special commemoration, the anniversary of this work here in the city of London, we specially gather in numbers in the spirit life to bring you, every one, our loving message. We wish to express to the faithful workers of this Lodge our deep gratitude, and remind you all that it isn't necessary to stand up before the congregation to speak in order to be a useful and true servant of the Spirit. We especially say this to you all tonight because every one of you will have your own contribution to make in the building of the Great White Temple of the Spirit on earth.

This work was planned a long time ago and it has taken a long time to bring through to the earth life the message from the world of spirit. Even now there is only a little flicker of the light, the spiritual light, in comparison with what it will be in the years to come. We were here with you all when you were enjoying a convivial gathering. We heard a remark – oh we heard many remarks – but we are not [..., word omitted]. That is what your spirit helpers do. They listen, they love and they do not say all they could. Now, this you may find a little irksome because you want to know more. You wish that your spirit friend and helper would tell you more. At all events, remember that great care is used in sending through a physical instrument a message from the spirit world, and even if you do not understand what you hear at that particular time, just preserve what you hear and wait patiently. As you yourselves develop and evolve in spiritual knowledge and wisdom then you will be able to understand much more clearly the message which may have been given to you quite a time back.

But what we were going to say to you (somebody here thought 'old White Eagle had forgotten' – he hadn't, you know!) – what we were going to say to you is this; we heard a remark at your anniversary party; 'What will 1965 bring? What of it? What of the future work?' Well, beloved members and brothers and friends, the future work – indeed your future life – your own future depends upon today. It depends upon you, now. We can tell you what we see in the spiritual world or sphere of life. We see growth and expansion of the work, not only of the physical or material structure of the work, but the growth and expansion of the light of the spirit of each one of you. That is what we see until the whole earth becomes alight. The whole earth becomes changed. Men will no longer live for themselves but will live in brotherhood with each other and – more than this, because this is very good for you all to learn – that the way of life is the way of brotherly love and service, and doing what you can to alleviate pain and suffering on the earth. There is something more which has to be done and you may not find it easy. You may not find the opportunities of giving forth the truth about the life of the spirit life as you know it. Nevertheless, this Lodge was formed for the purpose of preparing men and women to open their inner spirit to learn all they could about the world of spirit.

Your earth today is very mixed up. There are so many souls who are beginning to become interested in another life of spirit. Indeed they are becoming interested in life on other planets. There is this expansion, this looking outwards towards other forms of life. But the most important truth, we assure you, the most important truth to humanity in this age, is the truth of the life of spirit.

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Now then, you talk about modern Spiritualism. It has played its part. It has aroused interest, so much so that the idea of communication with people who have died or passed on is no longer regarded as a joke, a foolish joke. Any thinking man or woman today listens to what is being said or put forth about the world of spirit and the communications which are coming from that world. Do you realise the effect of this truth upon human life? Because, when humanity is sufficiently impressed that there is a life of spirit and that life which awaits them in the spirit world – which, by the way, he does not accept on faith, but expects proof – now that is the difference; proof, proof. There are those people living very close to you, to man, who are waiting to help man in his ordinary physical life.

Now you, some of you, may say, ‘Why should we people who are tired of life and exhausted with it, why should they bother about coming back to talk to people still living on earth? Why does anyone bother to lecture, talk, write books or plays or films in order to interest, entertain, educate and help humanity?’ Because there is within man an urge, an urge to give forth what he has found to be true and helpful. Why do spirits come back and give you their message? Why do they come back and try to make their friends understand that they are not dead and gone? Because when they reach that spirit state of life, after passing through certain experiences of cleansing and preparation, they find themselves in a world of infinite beauty, a heaven world, because it is a world of happiness and harmony. It does not mean that they have nothing more to do. On the contrary, they have been shown work which they can do to help forward the education of man on earth. They have found that supreme love and happiness, that spiritual purity of outlook. They know what it can do to a man’s soul. They know what it can do to a man’s body. Remember this. Whatever opportunities are given to man to develop gifts – not necessarily gifts, psychic gifts – but whatever gift comes most naturally to him, remember that he is able to receive guidance and knowledge on his own particular subject from the spirit world.

And we are going to be very practical, and many people will laugh and think that we, who are speaking to you from the spirit, are bringing down a beautiful tone to material levels, but we want to try to show how close the two worlds are, the world of spirit and the world of matter. Some people will say, get on with your own work and do not expect anyone in the spirit world to help you. They have got enough to do. It is true they have got enough to do. But their greatest desire and hope is to guard and guide their earthly companions, because they are learning the essence of brotherhood. They know that they cannot enjoy the happiness in that high estate if they ignore humanity, who is on earth needing their help.

Now you have a wonderful system now on your earth plane of communication. The whole ether is full of what you call wavelengths, sound waves, light waves, cosmic waves passing through you all the time. You are just in the midst of communication.

Now your need, whatever it is at a given time, is known instantly if you send a little prayer. Now we do not mean to keep on asking for help in work that you can very well do yourselves and know you can do it. But there are occasions when you need that little inspiration, that little – shall we call it? – spiritual help. So your mind suddenly receives a flash of light and you see the right thing to do or you hear the right thing to say at a given time. Your thought, your prayer is instantly registered. It does not require a long journey by helicopter or

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aeroplane or anything of that nature. Oh no, time and space in the world of spirit is not understood by the earth mind. It cannot be. Can we just give you a hint? Turn your thoughts inward and, if you do so, you will find that you are within life which you cannot describe – but you know that you are in contact with the Infinite. It is all within your own consciousness. This is why we say there is no time or space in the world of spirit. The world of spirit is wholly complete. You are in it and ‘it’ in its entirety is in you, in your own consciousness. So when you send out a thought, shall we say a prayer to God or to your guardian angel or to your guide or your friend, ‘What shall I do? – this is a problem; I must solve it myself, but how?’, the answer will come. It may not come at that instant, but when you least expect it, it will come. And then you will act upon it and realise what a wonderful thing it was. And then in a little while that naughty little reasoning mind will get to work and start to tempt you to doubt the reality, the truth of that help which you have received. Remember this next time.

Now dear ones, music and art, science, literature, whatever gifts you have – and all of you have some gift – remember that there is an inspirer, a guide and a helper to help you progress and develop the particular gifts with which you are endowed.

Now the first thing which – I am going to refer to the group behind us as the White Brotherhood, the group of helpers or Elder Brethren – the first thing that was seen to be needed on your earth plane was to build a bridge between the physical life on earth and the life in the heaven world, or a higher, purer state of life; in a higher ether, if you like. It is essential. It is essential that there must be a bridge to bridge the gulf between the so-called dead and the so-called living. But we remind you that from one aspect you may be regarded as dead and we in spirit may be regarded as living. So don’t make the mistake of thinking you are alive and we are dead. You make a big mistake if you do.

Now, my dear children, all the way through history you will notice that the various peoples or races have had some peculiar or weird belief in a spirit life. And those people of ancient days are regarded as savages because they did not develop a very powerful intellect, so all the things which they knew and tried to pass on to those who came after them became distorted, and the weird practices of some of those early races degenerated into what may be called magic of not very healthy character. But remember the very fact that that manifestation of spirit could come through to man’s life on earth, to his life on earth; the very fact that that could come through to him proves that your ancient brethren had something. They had a truth. They discovered that there is a world outside the material and the physical world.

Now all races, right the way through the ages, have endeavoured to give to mankind this truth until we come right up to modern times. And still man has allowed his mortal self to crush out spiritual truth. And yet spiritual truth is man’s saviour. Take the words of the orthodox church that Jesus the Christ is the Saviour of mankind; only by believing in Him can man gain eternal life. We say from the spirit world that man’s own spirit, which is the Christ within himself, is his salvation. So, in this modern age, the work that the Brotherhood and the Council above are endeavouring to do is to build this etheric bridge across which travellers may journey – our people to your people – until earth people are convinced of the laws which govern their daily life. They are so simple. You all know them.

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But what we are trying to say to you on this Anniversary Day [is this,] we are trying to tell you that you must all work and work and work, according to your ability, to convince or to show or to help the world understand that death is not final, that man does not die when his body ceases to breathe. It has been proved by some of your eminent scientists, unfortunately now passed on. And so, those working today still have to be awakened – *awakened* – to this spiritual truth of life, ever progressing continual life.

As man learns to serve his brother man, as he learns to serve and to live in accord with the divine law of loving service to his brother man, as he learns to live, to put himself in his brother's place and to feel as his brother feels; and to imagine the sufferings of Mother Earth herself which is tortured and spoilt because man is anxious to get – to get and get more and more without giving the blessing, giving the manure, the fertiliser which even Mother Earth herself needs, and all life on your earth needs: fertilisation, the Great White Light, the Love which is generated at first in a very small way by the brotherhood of man towards man; the brotherhood of man to the animal kingdom and the realisation by man that the Great White Spirit of Good, God, has blessed man with the richest treasure known in life – the light of love in his own heart. Do remember. Do remember.

Beloved members and brothers and visiting friends, this is the message from the spirit world. And this is the reason why this Lodge exists. And this is the reason why the Lodge is growing and is expanding and will continue to do so. And those people, you dear ones, who get tired and faint by the wayside or maybe think you have other and better work to do – there may be some who criticise and who cannot accept all that we say and all that we are doing in this work – we beg them all to remember to refrain from adverse criticism and to make the contribution of constructive love and service. This applies in your members' room, in your brotherhood chapel, in your Lodge, in your own home, in your own social life, in your work. Wherever you are, whether you are in a position of power or influence or a very simple and quiet home, remember, remember, dears, in every detail to give kindness and love, and to use your imagination and feel the effect in your own heart of a painful anecdote or experience. If you have experienced them, do not pass them on. Remember the joy and kindness and love which has come to you. Remember to pass it on.

We leave you, but in this band with us – if you are clairvoyant, some of you are – you will see dear brethren, men and women with shining faces who labour and who have laboured long to bring to earth this vital truth of spirit life, eternal life; the truth that within every man lies the gift, the power in some form to receive that blessing of heaven in his earthly life.

And He Whom you worship as the Christ Spirit presents Himself in human form. He presents Himself to you in the form of the perfect human soul, beautiful in character, in appearance and in His gentle attitude to you. He knows, for in Him is all truth and all love.

And He is giving you, as in the past many times, the symbol of the bread of heaven and the wine of heaven. Don't worry intellectually or mentally, just accept the truth that the bread of life is given to you in spirit by spirit. Take it from that golden disc which He holds before

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[you], the spiritual bread. He raises the cup of wine, the spiritual essence. Sip and be filled with this spiritual, heavenly feast. 'I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life. I Am the Way.'

The heavenly hosts [sing], gently at first, and then they swell their anthem to a crescendo of praise. 'As it was in the Beginning is now and ever shall be.' For you and every man, you all live in that Infinite circle of spirit life. Preserve the truth. Live it and give it and you will have lived well and truly. And may God, the Great White Spirit bless you, every one.

God bless you in your efforts and your work. Goodnight.

[White Eagle blessed everyone in the symbol of the Cross within the circle of Light.]

Brother Faithful:

In this fashion has the truth and the light descended to us to reveal to us – who are – who walk in the darkness the way of life. We close our service with Hymn no. 300, 'God is working his purpose out as year succeeds to year'.

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 unfoldment, spiritual development, inspiration, intuition, illumination, enlightenment, communion, spiritual contact, spirit world, guidance, path of service, spiritual work, spiritual service, clairvoyance, spiritualist, mediumship, spirit messages, nature