

Immortality

A382 Sunday Address 1st May 1966 St Mary Abbots Place, London Sunday Service

Text: typescript by MB (a blue carbon, a little faint). No contemporary markings. The typist's rendering of the fourth paragraph does not make sense; we have suggested an interpolation. In Brother Faithful's words at the end, a question mark over the word 'unusual' suggests that the typist was not certain she had the right word.

Context: according to MB's typescript, the service began with the hymn, 'Summer suns are glowing' (no. 7 in *Songs of Praise*), a reasonable indication that the weather was propitious! Minesta's invocation (and her benediction at the end) was as usual at the time recorded elsewhere, and the reading was the whole of John 14; interestingly, it was read from the Penguin Books modern translation. The second hymn was 'For those we love within the veil', and after the normal prayers, the Choir offered the anthem, 'Lift thine eyes'. This was probably the short chorus from Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. MB says it was sung 'unaccompanied and beautifully rendered'. Brother Faithful's words at the end have been preserved here, and the final hymn was no. 275, 'O God in whom we live and move'. The Choir ended with what by now has become a familiar reference in addresses of this period, the 'Sevenfold Amen'. The service fell as usual on the first Sunday of the month, in this case just three weeks after White Eagle had spoken at New Lands on Easter Sunday.

General notes: in this address White Eagle seems more than usually sensitive to critical minds, particularly among the young, to the extent that we might guess many of them were present. He also seems very specifically concerned with the *power* of God. Halfway through, there is an attractive paragraph about the power of beauty to transform. Despite the reading having been the whole of John 14, it is the phrase at the beginning, 'In my Father's house are many mansions' that preoccupies White Eagle for most of the address, though he does go on to speak of the Comforter, from later in the chapter. Nonetheless he speaks to his congregation as 'you, the disciples', which is relevant to the whole Farewell Discourse of which John 14 is a part. When, towards the end of the address, he speaks of 'Indian brethren' he seems to mean his own Indian brethren, i.e. native Americans. Maybe White Eagle is at his most Johannine when he is speaking of the Christ at the beginning of the communion: 'a form in human guise, the pure and perfect Son of God, That which came forth from God, and was called the Son of God, the Light of God'. The communion is unusually long and gives interesting information as well as communion.

Extraordinarily, White Eagle near the end refers to 'our poor little talk tonight', At the very least, it was not a little talk, but quite a long one. The apology seems to be over the amount he struggled to put into earthly language truths from spirit that were beyond words.

References: Note that the reading was from 'The Penguin New Testament'. Today, Penguin has adopted the Authorized Version of 1611 for their New Testament; presently, it has not been possible to identify which version was available in 1966, although White Eagle's use of the word 'dwellings' instead of KJV's 'mansions' offers a clue. White Eagle quotes the choir's anthem at the very start, but substitutes the word 'mine' for 'thine'. In this he is closer to the source of the words in Psalm 121, 'I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help'. The biblical statement about 'many mansions' which White Eagle expands near the beginning of the address is John 14:2. Later, White Eagle adds to the injunction 'Love one another' (John 13 : 34) the verse from the Beatitudes (Matthew 5 : 44) about praying 'for those who despitefully use you'. When he speaks of the Comforter his intended quotation is a strange amalgam of three passages: John 14 : 16 ('I will give you another Comforter'), John 14 : 27 ('My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you.') and John 17 : 16 ('They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world'). 'Jesus spoke of the dance of joy' is a strange reference. Just possibly, White Eagle was thinking of the section in the *Acts of John* sometimes referred to as 'The Hymn of Jesus'; he quotes from *Acts of John* elsewhere.

White Eagle's Address:

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Beloved, beloved earth brethren, we bring to you all love, and pray that the blessing of the Great White Spirit may be in your hearts, and that it will raise you in consciousness to the spiritual spheres of life. And this is necessary if man is to comprehend the secrets of his own inner being, and if he is to receive a satisfying answer to all his doubts and fears.

Lift mine eyes, oh, lift mine eyes to the higher spheres of consciousness – to the mountains, this is what it means: from whence cometh my help. Man needs help for his mental understanding, for his physical health and well-being. And above all he needs help in his search for spiritual, Eternal Truth. Today man is not satisfied by faith alone, although if he understood the meaning of the word 'faith' he would enter deep into his own being, and there he would rise into the heights, into spiritual heights, the Source of all Truth.

Now, we propose to talk with you on the subject of immortality, because it is the quest of all men eventually. We do not say at present on the earth plane that all men are seeking a proof of this question of immortality. But as evolution advances the human race will question more and more the truth of immortality. And how sad it is for you, most of you here who know the truth of immortal life, those of you who have had the blindfold removed from your eyes, enabling you to see into that sunlit world of heaven – of if you prefer it, the land of spirit life – you who have glimpsed the beauty and the joy in that land. You must feel sad when people of the earth are unable to say sincerely from within their heart that they are convinced of a continuation of life beyond physical death.

Now, this question is not new. Let us refer to the Gospel reading of this night, where the disciples of the beloved Master Jesus the Christ [were gathered around him. He] had been giving them for a long time, during the years of His ministry, He had been giving these disciples the simple teaching of how to find the truth of immortality.

Now, there are some today who question whether Jesus ever spoke of life after death. There are many people who question all the scriptures of old time. They question scriptures of the East, the ancient Vedas, the Egyptian scriptures, the religions that have been recorded of the Indians in the western hemisphere. These people question whether there has ever been given teaching on the life after death. Now, you have only to seek for yourself along the right lines, by which we mean entering into meditation and inner communion either in a prepared sanctuary, or even in the hills and the quiet places of nature. Meditate there upon the Creator of all the beauty which you may see around you, and you will know that there must be, and there is an answer to the eternal question of whether life continues beyond death of physical form.

The disciples were asking Jesus the same question when He said, 'In My Father's home in the spheres of Light there are many forms, many dwelling places, many mansions, and if it were not so, I would not be going to prepare a place for you'. Now you will ask, 'what did He mean by these words?', and our reply is that Jesus had been demonstrating to His disciples the *power* of the Creator. In His ministry He had been demonstrating the spiritual power of healing. He had even called to life lifeless bodies. He had been teaching His disciples the inner truth. He had been giving to them God's Word.

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Now, the question will arise in your minds: 'how do we know that Jesus was giving the Word of God?' We are speaking now to perhaps the young fresh minds, those enquiring searching young minds, who question every statement which is made from the spirit life and you all want proof. We say again to you: *that proof God has given you within your own heart and soul.* Jesus was giving this proof during His ministry in demonstrating the power – the power of God, the *creative power* of God. And His message was so simple – too simple for people to think about, because they say: 'what does it mean, "Love one another"?' 'How can we love those who hate us and spitefully use us?' 'How can we love a God, an Omnipotence which causes tragedy on the earth plane and tragedy in human life?' 'Can God be all love when He destroys mankind?' 'Why does God allow earthquakes and the destruction of humanity by volcanoes, or devastating wars?' 'Why does God permit the innocent and the unprotected to be tortured and ill-treated?' 'If there is a God of Love, surely God would not permit such pain and suffering on the earth plane.' And man turns to himself and his own life and possibly sees nothing but injustices. And he commences, if he has the fire within him, he commences to work on the material plane of life to right the injustices which he sees inflicted upon human life – cruelties inflicted upon animal life and all living things. And he thinks that by such work he is going to right the wrongs which man himself has inflicted. Man creates and man inflicts pain and suffering on his fellow beings. But where does the God of Love come into this picture?

Now, this is a question which concerns all people who are awakening, whose consciousness is being stimulated. And he is able to see with a dim vision the cruelties and injustices all around him. But you see, dear brethren, the consciousness which is the awakening in man is only just a glimmering of the light of truth. Man cannot have his questions answered immediately. You cannot have all your questions answered immediately, because you have to evolve and develop spiritual sensitivity before you can comprehend the answers to your very natural human questions. And so the right way to get satisfaction and to get a true reply to your questions is to meekly and humbly follow a path of spiritual unfoldment. By this we mean, first of all having used your reason, and being quickened in your consciousness, and feeling in your heart compassion, if not love, for your fellow creatures, you desire to follow the path. In other words, to live life in accord with that simple injunction of the Master Jesus, 'Love one another'. Now, you cannot love ugly things, but you can see through those ugly things a light – you can see a vision of what lies behind all these earthly and material questions.

And you must remember that when you in sincerity go into the secret or sacred places to pray, to meditate, or to hold communion with the Unseen, with the unseen life all around you, and when you do this your understanding expands and grows, and when you least expect it (that is, if your higher mind and your heart have been prepared) you will find truth will be brought into your mind, thoughts will crop up which will enable you to glimpse the vision of truth. Jesus told His disciples that there were many dwelling places in life. We remember, dear brethren, that it isn't only [the] human spirit which is part of the whole infinite love of God, or a Divine Intelligence, Divine Love, Divine Wisdom, Divine Spirit. It is not only man, nor is it only this earth planet that is within the Universe of God, of the Infinite Spirit. There are many aspects and phases of life – of matter.

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Now, many people do not give sufficient thought or appreciation to the beauty which is in nature, which is in the physical body itself. They do not study the beauties of bird life, of animal life, of insect life. They do not behold the glory of the heavens, the skies. They do not contemplate seriously the life, the young growing life which is in the water. They do not think about these glories of creation, of God's creation. They are only thinking – and who are we to blame them! – they are only thinking about themselves, their own troubles and their own life. And they are thinking, as we have already said, about the injustices and cruelties which appear to be inflicted wantonly upon human life, as well as upon animal life.

Now, 'In My Father's House', said Christ, 'there are many dwellings'. And you, the disciples, have to learn that in every cell of your body, in every atom, physical atom which composes form on the physical plane, is God. You have got to understand that from every physical body, from the mind of man too, there is a radiation of invisible force – call it the magnetic field – if you like. But then there is more than a magnetic field even round physical form. There are levels of radiation from the very lowest and the one nearest the physical life right up into those glorious spheres of spiritual consciousness, of spiritual activity. There are many, many realms, many spheres of activity, and these spheres can radiate from the physical – from man – right the way through all creation.

Now, the scientists are striving to find an answer to certain limited questions through scientific research. Of course, they are all learners, and they make many mistakes and wrong judgments. And what is considered truth and fact today may be discarded in a few years' time. So where are you poor innocent simple trusting searching people?

You are asking the eternal question, 'do we live after death?'. Is there proof of immortality? Now, our answer to you in this, that in your scientific age – the age of Aquarius – there will be many experiments on so-called scientific lines. And when the scientist is earnest, and has received within his higher mind the divine light of God, he will have another tool with which to work, enabling him to get proof of these radiations of all life, to get proof scientifically that there is a conscious or divine life permeating all matter, all forms of matter. And he will eventually come to the basic truth, the common denominator, that all life in whatever form comes from *light*, from spirit, from light which is simply the emanation of *love*.

Now, you will find that in your spiritual healing you can get miraculous results sometimes. And some people who are the healers or the operators through which this fire_works sometimes find the healing power will be most effective, completely effective. On other occasions no good appears to be accomplished. And we who look on – without any criticism whatsoever, because we understand – and we can see that in these failures there is lack of love. And in the failure of your intellectual who is questioning immortality, the failure lies in the fact that the questioner, the searcher, is searching with a brain which has become – no, we won't say has become detached – a brain which is not at present responsive to those higher spheres of life. And therefore, if a man or woman searches purely with intellect, or the brain of earth, he is missing the vital spark which will give him the answer and the truth – the true answer.

If man would walk humbly in the path of loving service to his fellow creatures, and strive to fill his heart with love and compassion for all life and for his fellow beings, he would then

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receive that spark of light, which is spirit, which is God. It would come into his consciousness, his vision would clear, and he would not need to have his questions answered by a spirit, or by a scientist, or by a minister of religion. He would be able to stand squarely and say, 'Well, my brother, I know that immortality is true, because I have seen, I have heard and I have felt the love of loved ones who have left the physical body. I know that they live because I have seen them. I know they could not die because as I watched the physical form being vacated, and the spirit of the beloved one move away, I received into my heart the blessing of the gentle light of God. I felt within me a comfort and a peace.' Surely, surely, this is what Jesus meant when He said, 'I will send you the Comforter, even the spirit of peace which the world cannot know because it is not in the world'.

Now this, my brethren, is the simple truth: the Spirit of Truth, the Comforter, is sent to you by that all-glorious *light* – call it God – call it Divine Intelligence – call it Christ – call it what you like; but it is the one true source of life eternal. And this eternal life is in you. And the purpose of incarnation is to develop maybe through pain and suffering, through physical experiences. It is the purpose of life for that light to grow ever stronger and more luminous within you and all around you, so that in time all humanity will rise up and dance the dance of joy of life, as Jesus spoke of the dance of joy. All people should be full of joy, dancing with joy. All people should be happy in their realization that they are in 'it' – in that glorious *light*, which is working all through life both here and in the hereafter. And although the Indian brethren spoke of the hereafter many, many of the more evolved, more advanced Indians knew that hereafter is here – now. You are living in the Eternal Now. But what you have to do is to develop your vision, your consciousness, your comprehension of God and immortality.

So we close our very poor little talk for we cannot find words to express in infinite language these profound truths. There was, as you know, the one many people worship as Christ. Other nations and peoples in bygone days worshipped the same being, the same light in different forms. But it is all the same truth, the one pure light which manifests in the highest form which man knows today: the perfect man. Is there such a one on your earth – the perfect man or woman? Oh no, but you get degrees of this manifestation of man made perfect by divine light.

We have in our midst not a physical form, but a form in human guise, the pure and perfect Son of God, that which came forth from God, and was called the Son of God, the Light of God. The Son of God is not bound by any orthodox religion, or any particular church. The Son of God is free as the sun which shines in your skies, but that Son can take form. And he takes the Form of the Lord Christ, the Christos. – to some people the Lord of Heaven.

And now He comes into our midst – this beautiful and perfect form of the Son of God, the Christ Being. Form is very necessary, very necessary if man is to comprehend infinite mysteries. Oh, this form is here! Use your inner vision, your power of imagery, your imagination, your creative power of form – see the blessed Lord Christ here with you. He comes to bless and to impart from Himself that light, that healing power, that comfort, that tranquil spirit. And He brings to you those mysteries, those mysterious symbols; the heavenly symbol, symbol of the body of Christ. This symbol is so much greater than man at present can understand in that tiny wafer of the heavenly bread, because that is the symbol of all

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form, of all God's *Light* manifest on the earth. And man is growing by receiving and absorbing into himself this symbol of the heavenly bread. And this he is accepting daily in his karma, in his actions. In his prayers he is receiving these invisible rays, this invisible bread from heaven.

And the Lord Christ now raises to your lips the crystal cup of the grape juice, the symbol of spirit, divine Essence; this Divine Light which has been given to you. But it means nourishment and stimulation. And so from Him, the man made perfect, the divine Son of God, you receive this wine of life. Sip it, feel it flowing all through your being, be sensitive to it, train yourselves to be sensitive to this heavenly sustenance – the bread and the wine. And as you accomplish this sensitivity you become aware of the divine fire all around you, divine fire within you, which will encourage you and fill you with enthusiasm, with vision, with wisdom, with understanding. And you will go forth as radiant knights of the light, carrying with you the truth of immortality, not only in essence, but immortality of man in man's form living in a world of infinite beauty and every increasing perfection.

In case we have misled anyone here let us speak again and say that life in the world of Spirit, in the heaven world, life is as real, more real, more solid, more substantial, more lasting than the form of life which you now see in a physical body. When you pass on, you pass on to this glorious journey into those spheres of light and happiness and learn ever increasing, expanding knowledge and activity. Perfectly real, a similar world to what you know in the physical life, but oh! so much more glorious, more harmonious, more satisfying. This indeed is the meaning of heaven and immortality.

So the Lord blesses you. And in this spirit of love your own dear ones who have cast aside physical form draw close to you. This is the point of reunion and communion with the life beyond death, the immortal life. We thank Thee, O Great White Spirit. We thank Thee.

Brother Faithful:

White Eagle once said that truth – meaning spiritual truth – was so simple as to be beyond and above the reach of the most unusual intellect, and could only be found by a heart of peace. And once found, though so simple, it is more profound than anything earthly. And that, I think, really sets the underlying theme of the whole of the address tonight.

We conclude with our Hymn No. 275. There again we have the theme of the Address set forth: 'comprehension of God and immortality'.

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 path, spiritual work, spiritual service, path of the soul, path of service, illumination, enlightenment, initiation, reincarnation, eternal life, wildlife, creationism, revelation, divine action, disasters, new age, scientific discovery, progress, eastern religions, dharmic religions, christ, saviour