

The Angels and the Shepherds

A378 Sunday Address 19th December 1965 St Mary Abbots Place, London Festival of Carols

Text: MB. Typescript, a blue carbon. The stenographer was at one stage very uncertain as to whether the word Son or Sun was being used and we have kept her parentheses. Beside Brother Faithful's words at the end, she added the marginal note, 'Regret not quite verbatim'. WE have altered 'wonderful gather' to 'wonderful gathering' about a third of the way into this address. After it, the word 'Christmas' in parentheses after 'Christ Mass' may have come from the typist. She may have also inserted alternatives around 'Sun' and 'Son', later. Early in the address, we have corrected 'gay gaily lighted' to 'gaily lighted'.

Context: MB records that there were 'Beautifully arranged exquisite white lilies on the altar' – the tradition of 'Madonna' lilies on the Christmas altar was a long-running one. There was an invocation by Minesta, 'recorded separately', with carols 'as on programme', and the reading was the traditional one about the shepherds from Luke 2 : 7-20. Brother Faithful urged 'deep feeling and true compassion and love' in beginning the Prayer for Humanity. MB records that the carol before the address, sung by the Choir and 'exquisitely rendered' was 'Silent Night'. There are particularly touching words from WE about the singing of the Choir and its reception in spirit. At the end, Brother Faithful's closing words at the end are again recorded, as he announced 'O Little Town of Bethlehem'. Minesta gave a benediction, recorded elsewhere, and the service ended with 'O come, all ye faithful'. It is, as usual for Christmas, quite a short address.

General notes: much of the first half of this address is preoccupied with the contact that can be made between those on earth and those in spirit, particularly given the close harmonies prevailing in the Lodge. it is interesting that White Eagle speaks of actually requesting to come to the earth plane and bring knowledge of the beauty of the spirit realm. As mentioned in 'Context', White Eagle is more than usually articulate in thanking the Choir and talking of the reception of the Carols in his realm of life, where the 'clapping' is silent but produces an atmosphere nonetheless. He notes visitors in the congregation from north, south, east and west – maybe this was one of the Christmas services when the Lodge was full both on the ground floor and on the gallery upstairs, as was noted in 1966. Later he says, 'we are a very large family on the earth plane now, and larger still in the spirit world'. He is lyrical about the spiritual effect of Christmas trees laden with lights. In describing the nativity scene he regards the animals present as all the signs of the zodiac. White Eagle's message is simple, but he creates for his listeners the actual experience of Christ being born for them in the simple stable, and he reminds them that in all times external conditions have threatened, and yet the power of God has unfolded good things.

References: the only reference is to the Christmas story as told by Luke in the reading, including the shepherds and the animals in the stable.

White Eagle's Address:

God bless you all. We who come to you from the world of light, we bring you oh! so much love, for we understand the earthly life. Do not think because we sometimes raise you into those supernal spheres that we do not understand the problems and difficulties of your earthly day. And it is because we understand so well the heart of humanity that we have requested that we may come into the earthly condition to talk to you and to bring to you all some of the joy which we have in our land of what you call 'the hereafter'.

Now, we are going to commence our Christmas message.

Firstly, to thank our Choir for the beautiful rendering of the old carols. And no doubt you people in your physical bodies felt as we felt. At the close of the singing we all clapped, and

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we are sure that you would have liked to have clapped – the only difference is that you would have made a noise (laughter) and we can clap in spirit without making a noise; except we do create an atmosphere when we clap in spirit. And we create colour and beautiful form and movement, but that is for another talk to you. On this occasion we thank you, our very dear faithful brethren, for giving so much joy at this special Christmas service.

And we also would like to say this to our many friends who are here, and some who have come from quite a long distance. We notice in this gathering those friends who have come from the east and the west country, from the northern parts of the city and from the south. And so we all meet here from the north, south, east and west and we want you individually to know that you, our dear brethren, are known to us, your thoughts come to us. And we shake you warmly by the hand, and thank you for joining with us in this glorious Festival of Christ-mass. What a wonderful time this is!

Now, you dear ones on earth look out upon the outer plane of life and you see, at this season, glitter; your cities, your towns, your villages are all lit up with bright colours; and the larger the city or town the more coloured lights you have. And we have visited – oh yes, we do visit on your earth plane – we have visited so many, many happy scenes on your earth, and we notice how the gaily lighted and decorated Christmas trees all over this magic isle glitter with the light. And where these lighted trees are to be seen they give forth joy and happiness. You cannot look at prettily decorated and lighted Christmas trees without catching the gaiety and the joy; even if you are quite an old man, you can still enjoy the gaiety and the prettiness of a Christmas tree.

Now, as we have told you before, the Christmas tree is symbolic of the human soul when it is awakened to the love of God. So in a sense you are all little Christmas trees. It sounds childish, perhaps, to talk to you like this, but it is worth remembering that whoever you are you can carry with you the love and the joy which the little lighted Christmas tree gives to the young in heart.

Christmas time is a most beautiful time in the spirit life. Now, you may wonder what your own dear beloved friends are doing in their spirit home, whilst you may feel very sad and lonely on the earth plane. Now you only have a physical brain with which to comprehend what we are now going to tell you, but in spite of your limitations you may perhaps catch the idea in your higher mind that you may receive in your homes, or wherever you are, you may receive the message from your own loved one in spirit. And when you are happy at the Christmas Festival, wherever you are, you can be quite sure that you have with you those you love.

Now, at Christmas time the spirit friends – particularly when you are awakened to an understanding of a life after death – your friends come to you and they talk to you in their own way, and you must not reject impressions which they give to you of their presence and their love. We have spoken of our friends who are gathered round us now in the physical body, but do you realise that there is such a large assembly here? There are no physical walls, no material walls, they do not bar the incoming of friends who are operating on the mental plane and the etheric plane. Their thoughts are here, and as their thoughts come so quietly so

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often they themselves come in an astral body. We would like all our friends all over the world who read these words in *Stella Polaris* to understand that we know that they come to greet us and to be with us on these special occasions in the Lodge. We are a very large family on the earth plane now, and larger still in the spirit world. And all the brethren of this Lodge who have left a physical body are now with us; and if you just look for them you will see them in your midst.

Now, this is a wonderful gathering, a wonderful Christ Mass (Christmas) gathering of invisible friends – some of them still attached to a physical body. Their bodies are some distance away, but they are here in their astral body, or their mental body – they are here. And there are others, that company of Shining Ones who gather round you from the realms of light.

Now, you have listened to the reading about the visitation of the angels to the shepherds. The shepherds, you know, are symbolic of the teachers and the leaders of spiritual truth. The angel messengers appeared to the shepherds. Angel messengers are now appearing to you. Now visualise in the heaven world a blazing golden light, a heavenly light, a vast Star, a vast shining Star. And in the Star you will perceive the angels of light, for angels are heavenly messengers who are coming to the world, who are coming – indeed many have come – to the people who are imprisoned in a physical body. We want you to think of this glory, for what we tell you is true.

And you are told in your Bible that the little babe, Jesus Christ, was born in a stable. Now if you will use your imagination, you will see the signs of the zodiac, in a vast circle, all the animals who were gathered round the Christ child when he was born into physical conditions of life. He represents the Son (Sun), the blazing glorious Spiritual Sun (Son) we see in the heavens, but it is in a higher state of life at a higher level of consciousness.

Now see this simple child brought forth by a divine mother in a very humble condition according to earthly standards. But the stable is only symbolic of a humble heart; and the Christ child is born in man in flesh. He is born only in humble surroundings, because the Christ spirit could not manifest in harsh and worldly or arrogant conditions. The human heart must be the heart of a simple child, and then the Christ light, the Christ son, the son of God, is born.

Now, in the heavens you will see this light, in the centre the glorious radiant light, and all the animals or all the signs of the zodiac all around Him. And he is born, and the light floods the whole of the heavens.

Now, dear ones, you – *you* – have been called to bear witness to this wonderful happening, the birth of the Beloved Son of God in spirit; and believe us the spirit is drawing very close now to man.

Now when Jesus the Child was born, nearly two thousand years ago, do you remember that there was as much distress amongst the people, amongst the different countries, as there is today – and even more so in those bygone days. Now you look out on the world at the present

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time and you shudder with fear. Oh, how wrong you are! Cannot you see that in all the disturbing outward conditions [is] the slow birth of the Christ upon the earth? Some people may call it the Second Coming, but it is the Word of God which is quickening in men's hearts; and you will see the birth of the Christ child in simple ways, in simple ways. For the men of action and the men in responsible places will in a quite inexplicable way take action which will bring about right conditions on the earth. There is this slow birth now taking place, and all the nations of the world – however contradictory the conditions may appear to what we are saying to you – we assure you that with all men there is coming this quickening of the Christ spirit. So there will come right action, and a better understanding of God, and God's will. Mankind will awaken to the encirclement of this divine power, light – the life from which all men derive.

My dear children of earth, give thanks in your heart. Keep your faith with the spirit, refuse to be daunted, and look up to the birthplace of the Son (Sun) the light, the love of Christ, and you will feel in yourselves that you are part of 'it'. You will be awakened to the consciousness that you are part of the infinite life. You cannot be separated from it, nor can your brother man. It does not matter what the nationality is, nor the colour of the skin. You will see around it many, many Shining Ones, and some with the most lovely copper skin, some with golden skin and some with the 'milk and roses' skin; it is just a matter of the physical body and the geography of birth, but all are one, all are one in the great, great light, the Creator's light. All are one in spirit, and all command the same respect of the spirit.

So, my children, now we in spirit come to wish you a glorious, a glorious happy, happy Christmas. Look forward with courage and with your vision upon that Christ Star which shines brightly over you all. Follow the Star, and you will enter in full consciousness into that world of light, into that world of spirit, into that perfect life where there is no sorrow, no bitterness, for it has all passed away; where you are at one, where you are united in fuller consciousness with the Eternal Light.

And so now we bless you, we bless you – all love – all love.

Brother Faithful:

It is rather encouraging to hear White Eagle compare human beings with a Christmas tree, because it shows that from their point of view, their clear vision, they must see a few candles burning somewhere on us or in us. So we have a few parcels to hand to others, some gifts to give away. And therefore it is very important that after Christmas we do not allow all our candles to go out. So let us keep our candle burning brightly; and that is, of course, the very context of White Eagle's Christmas Message – keep our candles burning brightly.

We finish with the lovely carol, 'O little town of Bethlehem | How still we see thee lie!'

We thank you Choir, and God bless you. A very happy Christmas.

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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:

nativity, yule, angels, messengers, light within, holy spirit, divine plan, communion, heaven world, world of light, nature, winter solstice, healing light, ritual, festival, celebrations, spiritual contact, messiah, wise men, epiphany, hymns, Christ child

