

Well, What Is Our Wisdom School, Then? -- 1

Jeremy Hayward

WE FIRST shared—in a formal way at least—aspirations and plans for a White Eagle Wisdom School in a little booklet which was sent to all members in the UK in September 2008. The booklet was called ‘A Fine Purpose.... An Unfolding Vision in the Light of the Star’, and it set out a number of plans for the future. Even before this, however, the idea of a White Eagle Wisdom School came as a vision to our Lodge Mother, Jenny, early in the new year of 2007, when she felt so strongly White Eagle giving her both a long-term vision, and a long-term charge—in which she would collaborate with many, many others. It confirmed her belief in a Wisdom School that was very gradually and steadily to unfold as part of the fabric of White Eagle’s work and the White Eagle Lodge as an organization. Spiritual visions are often, I think, like golden seeds which have to force their way up through the soil of the quiet earth and gradually show shoots, leaves, plant and flower—a process which in earthly terms requires much patience, faith, acceptance of worldly complexity, and building structures of collaboration. It was after all many, many years after Minesta was given the vision of the Temple to be built at New Lands that its doors finally opened and people gathered under the gracious dome in 1974.

With our Wisdom School, of course, there’s a whole folder (metaphorically speaking) of questions which are naturally and rightly asked. What difference will the Wisdom School truly make to White Eagle’s work? What progress has been made? Will it be something separate from the rest of the White Eagle Lodge work? Whether I’m a new visitor or a long-serving brother/sister what will it actually mean to me? How much of it is something the Lodge has actually been doing under different names all along? I live hundreds of miles away from any of the three White Eagle Temples, or main White Eagle centres—what is there in the Wisdom School that I can connect with? Writing this article, I simply want to share a model of what the Wisdom School is within the overall fabric of White Eagle’s work and what it can mean to us individually—and I want to do this in as ordinary and human way as I can. I want to start too from the simplest principles at the very heart of White Eagle’s work.

In a teaching given through Minesta many years ago there is a passage in which White Eagle talks beautifully about the Lodge’s purpose, ‘The Master responsible for bringing this Lodge into being is working for the great brotherhood of the new age ... his particular work today is to establish a brotherhood founded on the family spirit, founded upon love....’ A little further on he continues, ‘All souls belong to God.... Within your heart is the Christ child ...symbolized by the rose because the rose is a fragrant flower....The rose is perfect in form and opens its petals to the sun. The human heart is perfectly formed in God’s own image and will always, always respond to the sunlight of

truth, to the sunlight of God. In the forming of this Lodge the Master has laid down the rule of love, of giving freedom to all but calling upon each one to respond in the finest, the truest manner.'

These are such simple words, but when you re-read them reflectively, I think you will agree that they actually offer a most wonderful validation of the beauty of the human heart. What more hopeful, what more affirmative thing can be said about us ordinary human beings, than to say that the very centre of us, our heart, is perfectly formed in God's own image? Not just my heart, not just yours, but every human heart.

To me, these words bring us also to the heart of White Eagle's work. His work begins with the unfoldment of the rose of love in the heart, with the ability we all have to serve each other and all humanity through the light we find there—whether this be through the way we live, through our healing work or the brotherhood work, or all the other different ways. And his work ends, too, in the total simplicity of the rose and the star. For myself personally, my very deepest experiences in White Eagle's work have taken me to a place where all intellectual knowledge becomes as a peripheral trifle beside the rose, the living spirit of life itself.

We may truly ask then, why should White Eagle have so strongly given the vision and charge for the formation of the Wisdom School? Why should we be dedicating so much thought, effort, planning and aspiration to it? The model I see is this. The rose that is our beginning and our end is indeed simple, but it is also something far greater, vaster than the human personality. And so, underneath the simplicity of loving service which is the core of all our work, there sit many possible paths of training suited to different individuals. These paths of training approach that simple core with safe steps, clearer eyes and, yes! with the joy of conscious learning. This is easy to say, yet these paths of training with their safe steps and conscious self-development can involve so much: discipline, patience, some intellectual learning, the integration of our sometimes puzzling human experience with our hearts' intuition, understanding of responsibilities involved and much, much else. However, in all these different paths of training and growth there is an element of conscious self-development and learning, alongside the unconscious element. There is the pleasure of apprenticeship; something in which I play a part, but in which God and the Wise Ones undoubtedly play a greater part. In the deep, unseen unselfconscious part of our growing, we learn trust that something is slowly unfolding underneath our conscious understanding. Yet there is still the feeling of apprenticeship.

Let me give some obvious examples. As Principal of Healing, I am wholeheartedly involved in the training we offer to White Eagle Contact Healers. One of the things I say at the very beginning of the first training course is that perhaps twenty percent of a healer's training is the practical skills we will be learning of how to give a healing treatment, but eighty percent is the communion with the Great Healer which we each

practise and aspire to in our soul. I know absolutely in my heart that this is true.

Nevertheless, we spend a lot of time on the course learning where the healer can usefully place his or her hands because of the effect on the etheric body of the patient. We learn about the relationship between healer and patient, and the 'well' and the 'ill' of this. On the second course we learn listening and communication skills to help the patient experience the safety of being understood. We learn about the application of all the different healing colours and the reasons for this, and on Course III we spend one day developing our understanding of the human chakra system and subtle anatomy, as experientially as possible. Not primarily head knowledge, but feeling, for instance, what part in our being and in everyday life our root or our sacral centre actually play. Around all this there are responsibilities both for trainer and for student, and some of these responsibilities are formal outer-world ones: codes of conduct, insurance and so on.

And what is the outcome? We hope that the outcome is that a dedicated member of White Eagle's family now has the skills and awareness to help others in a focused, compassionate and effective way. And all these qualities are contained in love, of course they are, but they need to become conscious. And this self-development forms part, just part, of the healing area of the Wisdom School.

In the School of Astrology many wish simply to gain a general understanding for themselves of this ancient science. Others wish to develop the wealth of experience, wide practical knowledge and understanding of the sensitivities of the astrologer/client relationship, the spiritual intuition based on learnt principles. In the process they see the complexities of human experience becoming more intelligible as part of a greater cosmic plan, God's plan. And through these tools and this training they aim to give real practical support, both down-to-earth and spiritual, and offer new and perhaps mind-changing perspectives to others. As professional astrologers, they empower others to see their opportunities and their way more clearly. Ultimately, perhaps, they help others to see with fresh eyes the next stepping stone back to the rose at the core of everything. And this is a service of the Wisdom School and an opportunity within it.

Through the newer School of Meditation we are able to set down more clearly all the experience gained in the nearly seventy years since Minesta first brought meditation into the White Eagle Lodge under White Eagle's guidance. Meditation is between the individual soul and God, but an experienced and well-trained teacher can support and facilitate the process both by the love and strength of their own heart, their own spirit, and through having learnt for themselves, in ways both small and large, practices, attitudes and beliefs which can hinder or help. They can learn ways of teaching which are genuinely empowering, conditions which give support, and so much else. In our School of Meditation one of our aspirations is that through the training and support of those facilitating and teaching, we will ultimately be

available to serve better all those within White Eagle's community, and indeed those outside it, on their personal path.

We believe that we have in the Lodge the experience to give greater support to those working within the Lodge, but also to give service in the community—just as in the healing work, and in a different way the astrological work. And so the School of Meditation too is designed to model more clearly those safe steps which as individuals we uniquely tread, with the joy of discovery and with the joy of trust, towards the rose at the core of everything.

[Stella Polaris, April–May 2012]

What Is Our Wisdom School, Then? - 2

Jeremy Hayward

I have been very touched by the reception given to the first part of my article about our White Eagle Wisdom School and I am so glad that people have found it gives 'flesh and blood' to something which has been such an important part of our vision for White Eagle's work for some years now.

One question I have been asked is, 'You talk about the training offered to students of the White Eagle Contact Healing – but what about the Absent Healing work? Is that part of the Wisdom School too?' Perhaps I can best answer this through my own personal experience! When I was 18, having just left school, I sat for the first time regularly on an Absent Healing group here in New Lands Chapel. I have never forgotten those weeks when I discovered the reality and the meaning of the healing colours, as a personal experience, and I can remember walking out on the South Downs one evening afterwards feeling subtly, but strongly, that I could understand for the first time what White Eagle means by 'the white magic'. Although there was no outward training for the Absent Healing work then, and even now this still consists of the written notes which every Absent and Lone Healer is given, for me it nonetheless felt that I had entered on *a path of apprenticeship*. As an apprentice I did not, as I have said, receive outward training, but I knew that in the patient, unhurried pace of all true spiritual things, I was receiving (maybe only half-consciously) *soul* training. And so, although our Absent Healing work began in 1936, over 70 years before the current vision of White Eagle's Wisdom School was given, I believe from my own experience that this beautiful, unselfconscious service in the healing work, is truly within the embrace of the Wisdom School, just as it has always been at the core of the work of the White Eagle Lodge as a whole.

And now - what of the other faculties which have begun to develop and in some cases to put down firm roots? We have held retreats and courses in Sacred Geometry and understanding of the Platonic solids, on the Seven Rays and many other aspects of Spiritual Science. The Mothers of the Temple in Australasia have played a particularly inspiring part in this and, through years of personal, spiritual practice alongside some mental study, have evolved courses which are designed to help us understand subtle patterns behind the outward physical form, patterns which ultimately help us appreciate the working of divine law and the greater harmony behind the discordant complexity of outer human experience. And this helps take our mental and our heart consciousness to a more inward place; to live, we could say, with a clearer internal vision of the Rose. An understanding of the Platonic solids can truly help us in the healing service we give to the natural world. So again, in the area of Spiritual Science, there is the balance between the element

of conscious self-development and the selfless unfolding of the heart in service.

And what of Creative Arts? I personally like to think of the Creative Arts aspect of the Wisdom School as particularly manifesting the spirit of joy. Joy in God's Ray of Beauty, joy in finding our own and others' creativity, joy in experiencing through the physical senses the things of the spirit. Those involved in this area have developed guidelines and principles of respecting the creative potential in all. Behind even this, however, is the underlying vision of understanding the rays of unfoldment brought by the angels associated with music, colour and form and how we can be receptive to them. (If anyone would like to read a paper on this or any of the principles of our Creative Arts work, please email or write to Anna Hayward at New Lands.) We have retreats, courses and events which have made a humanly significant, and I would personally like to say radiant, contribution to the experience of being in White Eagle's work.

Other aspects are still to develop. We are laying foundations, for instance, for courses which show how White Eagle's teaching is reflected in other great spiritual traditions of the world—and vice versa. Whilst keeping to the simplicity and purity of our White Eagle path, we want to offer the opportunity within White Eagle's work to understand more of the universality of his teaching and of the wisdom of the great traditions which White Eagle has most truly re-presented in his own inimitable simple and loving way, in the teaching we have.

Infusing all the areas of the Wisdom School is an evolving philosophy and principles about how as ordinary human beings we most easily learn, and how we can come to trust our own learning and growing process. We are preparing a one-day course for all Wisdom School facilitators on these areas of emotional understanding, and it is of course intended that this should be available worldwide, delivered by different people in different countries.

A further point has been queried: 'You can teach knowledge—but how can you teach wisdom?' I hope that my descriptions earlier in this article have partly answered this. Wisdom cannot be taught, but truly it can be facilitated, and *the aim of the Wisdom School is to facilitate the unfoldment of God's wisdom in human hearts.*

So, dear friends, to me all this and much more is what White Eagle's Wisdom School has to give. It is indeed something which has always been there, but it is our vision and faith that White Eagle wants to bring this into fuller manifestation, to make it more accessible and grounded. I used the image at the beginning of this article of the golden seed that pushes its way up through the quiet earth and gradually produces shoots, leaves, growing plant and flower, and I am sure this is how it will be: season by season, step by step. And then in due course we will look back and say,

‘What a wonderful growth. How blessed we are in what has been given to us from the higher planes of life, and blessed that we have been trusted, with care, responsibility and dedication, to evolve the structures and the underlying emotional understanding in which all this can be best shared.’

There are a number of other important points which I would like to share, which follow on from all I have said. The first has always been emphasised by Jenny, our Lodge Mother: that White Eagle’s Wisdom School should reflect, in a simple, human way, the Wisdom Schools in the heaven world. White Eagle—and indeed so many other radiant teachers from the world of light—have given descriptions of places of learning, paths of training that are available to *discarnate* souls. He says that it is possible for us to visit these places of beauty, love and inspiration in our sleep state. Even in the higher worlds, entry into these schools, we are told, requires the password of love, brotherhood and service, the aspiration to learn a particular way or path with discipline. And the purpose of these schools is profound and sacred: to approach more fully the Great Reality, the Rose which enfolds and indeed is, all Creation. All we are doing at the earthly level in the development of White Eagle’s Wisdom School is to try to create a very humble but grounded reflection of what happens in a far profounder and more majestic way in the world above, perhaps just as our White Eagle Temple on the hill here at New Lands, beautiful as it is, is only a simple replica of something far more wonderful in the worlds above. In this sense, the vision of the Wisdom School is that part of the unfoldment of the New Age, a new consciousness, the realisation that a glimmer of what is taught in the heavens can be taught in a general human and responsible way on earth too.

Another fundamental principle which is part of White Eagle’s vision is that the Wisdom School as it unfolds, season by season, year by year, *will truly belong to White Eagle’s family worldwide*. It will be something that, within the bounds of practicality and geography, *we all share*. Of course, there is an enormous amount to do to make this worldwide character of the Wisdom School a genuine practical reality; it will take patience, time and collaboration, including collaboration between different cultures and languages. We know that aspects of inspiration for the Wisdom School will come from different White Eagle centres, but we will get there together—one family, one Wisdom School worldwide. As a very small example, last June leaders of White Eagle centres from around the world took part in a workshop at New Lands about the public presentation of the Wisdom School and our work generally. With both laughter and thoughtfulness, we pooled our widely varying experience in White Eagle’s work.

There is another point which is profound for me personally: esoteric knowledge can be read in books, but the White Eagle Wisdom School is not primarily or even secondarily about the acquisition of knowledge. I believe that in White Eagle’s

Wisdom School, those who take on for a period the mantle of teacher or facilitator will have learnt deeply through life's experience. Spiritual wisdom is only gained through the deep experiences of living. Thinking back to my own university student days, I remember a striking quotation from the sixteenth century reformer Martin Luther (not actually a personal hero of mine!). However, at the risk of sounding much more erudite than I really am, I will quote something rather beautiful that he wrote in Latin: *'Non legendo et disputando, sed vivendo, moriendo, immo damnando fit theologus.'* For our purposes, this can be translated: 'It's not reading and discussion, but living, dying—yes, and even being damned which makes a spiritual teacher.' Well, the 'damned' is not part of our view of life at all, but I believe that, as White Eagle says of the spiritual path generally, the wisdom which will be most worth sharing will often be brought through by walking paths of puzzlement, possibly pain, possibly intense joy, but ultimately of true discovery. As White Eagle says, it is what we learn in the very fibre of our being which really counts, and which is built into the Temple of our soul.

Another thought: the descriptions of areas of the Wisdom School which currently exist have mentioned that the aspiration is twofold: to enrich the experience of those serving within White Eagle's community *but also to help us to offer a service out in the community.* Part of Jenny's original vision in 2007 was very simply put: 'The Wisdom School will both reach in and reach out.' We see so many opportunities in the unfoldment of the Wisdom School for offering service in the community, for instance in the Contact Healing work and the training of meditation teachers; but also in offering a way into spiritual philosophy and understanding which will appeal to those of different and perhaps non-traditional backgrounds, cultures and outlook. A very simple example: a seminar on Sacred Geometry or an Astrological talk on a well-known figure might open a window of insight for someone who could not immediately enter with comfort into a deeply devotional meditation. So, we seek through the Wisdom School to open doors for those in the wider community as well as the deeper purpose of uncovering stepping stones back to the Heart of life.

One of the questions which has been asked that I mentioned at the beginning of this article was, *'Is the Wisdom School a separate entity from the Lodge itself, or will it be so in the future?'* The answer is a simple 'No.' The Wisdom School is absolutely part of the fabric of White Eagle's work as a whole, of all our spiritual work. It simply gives an outer form to those aspects of our work where there is the special element of conscious self-development, training and the joy of learning—always alongside the quiet, unselfconscious and sometimes unknowable unfoldment of the spirit. In some cases we will have, or seek to have, external accreditation for the training which is offered through White Eagle's Wisdom School. This is already the case with Contact Healing, where becoming a registered healer involves a process accredited by the national accredited body UK Healers; the Beginners Astrology Course is

accredited by the Advisory Panel on Astrological Education, and we hope to find suitable external accreditation for the meditation teacher training course which we are piloting this year. So, in this sense, the inner Wisdom School will also sometimes have an outer coat to be worn in the market place to enable us to serve there. Readers may be interested too to know that we are currently working to modernise the wording of our Trust Deed as a charity, to provide more clearly for this and other aspects of the Wisdom School.

So, dear friends, there is so much more that could be said, so many more thoughts that come, but I am hoping that in these two articles I have been able to share some thoughts which have the Lodge Mother's blessing, and which also make the vision of an unfolding Wisdom School a warm, inspiring reality for you, and something deeply, deeply worth working for. May White Eagle's blessing and unknowably loving guidance enfold us all as that golden seed, season by season, unfolds into plant and flower.

[Stella Polaris, June–July 2012]