

Pathwork on

Meaning of Death: Of Groups, Of Relationships, Of Individuals

This quote from Pathwork Lecture 165 *Evolutionary Phases in the Relationship Between the Realms of Feelings, Reason, and Will*, if I understand it correctly, gives an interesting perspective on death – death of groups, death of a relationship (though not specifically mentioned), and death of individuals.

The Lecture notes that an entity's **hopeful illusions** (could we say, an entity's conscious outer goals and plans) may **not** be **compatible** with that which is really **necessary for an entity's true inner growth, manifestation of its divine essence/kernel, and fulfillment of its life purpose**. In this situation of incompatibility between striving for outer apparent but illusory success and true inner growth an entity (group, relationship, or individual), in effect, **resists true inner growth** in favor of more superficial, idealized, and illusory hopes and wishes (grow ever "bigger," more "successful," etc.). In **resisting true inner growth** in favor of superficial outer growth the entity takes a **life-defeating attitude toward its own true inner growth, manifestation, and purpose**. This wrong-attitude-path, often formed by compliance with the values of the culture in which the entity evolved, does not lead to true growth, which is the purpose of the entity's very existence. When an entity follows the "wrong" path with no intention to change or individuate, a mechanism kicks in to begin a dying process so that the whole entity is saved from moving in this wrong life-defeating direction any longer than necessary. Outer success is thereby shut down, and the entity begins a dying process.

Why would an entity (individual, relationship, or group) prefer following a pseudo-life path (with its outer appearance of "success") rather than the entity's true inner path and purpose for existence? This Lecture suggests it is because the entity's underlying life-defeating attitudes actually **FEAR** both **TRUTH** and **LOVE**. It is **FEAR of Truth and Love that induce decay in the entity**.

So what first appears as death in an entity (individual, or relationship or in group) is, when viewed with deeper insight, nothing but the **death of death and destructiveness traits that still remain in that entity**. So **death becomes a life-saving event**, preventing the entity from going further down the wrong path. The Lecture states that healthy organisms (entities) cannot tolerate life-defeating attitudes for long whereas unhealthy organisms (entities) can tolerate life-defeating attitudes for a very long time, even though life in or of the entity may be miserable to the end.

It is interesting for individuals to examine one's own psychic attitudes, attitudes in a relationship, and group attitudes and see where death of the way things are would be life-saving to the entity. This Lecture also makes death of an entity more of a friend than an enemy of the entity, since death stops the entity from going down the wrong path any further and thereby death becomes "the most life-preserving event" an entity could experience. Death (physical or psychic) sets the stage for rebirth (resurrection, transformation or reincarnation).

I invite you to read this quote and see what your understanding of these words from Pathwork Lecture 165 might be. Do the Lecture's words resonate with you as truth, or not? Where does my interpretation seem correct and where incorrect? Let me know what your thoughts are. In search of truth, Gary

05	<p>This group, this entire spiritual endeavor, is a pulsating, living reality, my friends. It has a spiritual form. I have mentioned this occasionally, especially at certain thresholds. It is indeed a living, growing organism, expanding in a more beautiful way than ever. Just as every living thing grows more aware of itself as it develops, so does this organism. This applies to both individual and collective entities such as nations, groups and common endeavors. The same psychic laws apply to them also. Consciousness must exist to some degree in all living organisms. Group consciousness can be extremely dim, as for example in animals or plants; or it can be very highly developed, provided the individuals forming the group are predominantly in a state of raised consciousness. The degree of consciousness of a group organism reflects the sum total of its individuals, just as the overall consciousness of an individual reflects the sum total of his or her psychic layers, including those that cause inner conflict and pain. When unification occurs, the layers melt into a oneness, which is then activated and moved by the divine kernel.</p>
06	<p>When the overall organism tends toward growth, purification and union, those discordant layers, the aspects that resist union, gradually die off. Resisting growth is not necessarily a theoretical concept, but may nevertheless occur in practice, since what is really necessary for growth may not be compatible with a hopeful illusion. Thus, when aspects of the organism stem against the necessary stages of growth, the self-selective process of dying off, or exclusion, sets in to protect the whole organism from being affected by life-defeating attitudes so it can continue to grow. Physical death results from the same principle. Physical matter dies off only because underlying life-defeating attitudes fear truth and love. These fears induce decay, which finally manifests outwardly.</p>
07	<p>Hence, what first appears as destruction is, when viewed with deeper insight, nothing but the destruction of destructiveness. Even though it may be painful to endure at the moment, such death is often the most life-preserving event, borne of the organism's overall health. For the unhealthy organism could tolerate the life-defeating attitudes much longer. Death is overcome when the whole organism no longer resists life, truth, and love, so that it no longer needs to secrete deadening stuff. This principle is very important to comprehend in all questions of life -- both individual and collective.</p>