

Pathwork on
Love, Eros, and Sex, Take 2

Pathwork Lecture 44, *The Forces of Love, Eros, and Sex*, is often the starting point for Pathworkers diving into this important topic. I consider Lecture 44 “Take 1” on the subject. The following quote from Pathwork Lecture 54 *Questions and Answers*, builds on Lecture 44, a “Take 2” if you please, a “take” that may be of further help for work on sexuality issues in one’s life. It gives a clear summary of this topic, and expands on the developmental nature of our sexuality from its initial stages in us as selfish infants to the mature stages in us as healthy adults in love relationships of mutuality and Union. Sexuality, as a healthy and natural component of the Life Force, with maturity, integrates with Eros and Love. Without this integration and maturity the sexual force remains an immature, instinctual, and often unmanageable force within us.

32	<p>QUESTION: The next question concerns the concept of sin in sex as pointed out in the Catholic religion in the postulate of overcoming, or the conquest of sex. This is also postulated in some of the oriental religions.</p>
33	<p>ANSWER: The sexual impulse in the infantile and immature personality is entirely self-centered and egotistical; it is separated from the love force and the erotic force which include the other being, not as a necessary instrument to be used, but as a goal for unity. You all know that selfishness, self-centeredness, is contrary to Divine Law. Since humanity on the whole, even today -- and much more so in former times -- was and is emotionally undeveloped, and since in many civilizations mass-images came into existence as a result of the immaturity that said sex is sinful, the sexual drive was kept hidden. Nothing hidden can mature. As you know, it works the same way with your personal images which are the result of wrong childish conclusions: they remain that way because they are kept hidden in the subconscious and are thus paralyzed in your soul. Since the immature and primitive personality experiences the sex impulse in an entirely selfish and separated way it is "sinful," if you want to choose this word. And because of this, people are afraid to face their sexuality consciously so that it can mature with the rest of the personality. Hence they cannot integrate sexuality with love feelings. This creates a vicious circle. The more the existence of sexuality is suppressed by the concept of its sinfulness, the less can it mature and integrate with love. Whenever it manifests, the person feels guilty and ashamed, trying, erroneously, to tear out the sex force. True, in the way the immature person experiences sex, it is harmful because of its self-centeredness and separateness from love. But the remedy does not lie in tearing out a natural force that cannot be eliminated no matter how hard you may try; it lies in mature growth into integration with love.</p>
34	<p>No force, no principle as such can ever be evil or sinful in itself. It always depends on whether it is egocentric, separated and loveless because of emotional immaturity or whether it finds union and integrates with love and the life force.</p>

	<p>This applies to all forces, all emotions, all principles, and everything in existence. Once humanity will have understood this -- and today you are beginning to -- religious teachings will no longer hold that sex as such is sinful. Of course, lacking deeper knowledge, religions had to assert the sinfulness of sex because the raw and often dangerous and quite destructive sex force manifested in the wrong way in many individuals. Observing this, they came to the wrong conclusion and chose the wrong remedy. The opposite extreme is always the wrong remedy and much nearer the extreme one wants to avoid. The right alternative is to recognize the sex force as a living reality that cannot be torn out without grave harm to the human personality -- if such an attempt succeeds at all -- and to give it proper direction by recognizing its deeper meaning. It is not more correct to say that sex is good or bad, right or wrong, than to say electricity is good or bad, right or wrong. It depends entirely on what you make of it, how you use and direct it.</p>
35	<p>Many people understand this today. But I am afraid very few people understand it emotionally as well as intellectually. When you come into the deeper levels of your subconscious, you will find that your feelings seldom agree with your intellectual knowledge on this subject. Why not? Because as a child you kept the infantile sex drive hidden. You were often made to feel how bad you were in this respect, and therefore the concept developed within that sex was sinful. Your unconscious wrong conclusions, plus your guilt and fear, caused your sexuality to remain almost as infantile as when you were a child.</p>