

Pathwork Lecture 148 on competition and envy...

23	<p>Another area where you human beings find yourselves extremely blocked, hindered, and impatient with your own evolution or development, concerns envy. This is a much more important topic than most of you realize. Here again, a number of my friends have begun to see that wherever their life is problematic, envy exists. Wherever there is no problem, they are free from it. Envy gives rise to self-hatred and to running away from that point within the envy-current which has to be transcended in order to really and truly reconvert it to its original nature.</p>
24	<p>What causes envy is again the dualistic concept, in which life is understood in terms of either/or. "Either I have or the other has" is the nature of all envy. This points to the limitation with which humanity experiences the universe. The universe is infinite in its abundance, and really knowing this makes envy impossible. What the other person has is not taken away from you. What you have was never taken away from another. The dualistic misconception presents innumerable problems. It not only creates envy, but also guilt; it paralyzes the relaxed powerful flow of reaching toward the good that can be yours. It makes you very hesitant to express and experience the best that is possible and makes you see problems in a distorted fashion. It produces guilt for wanting what others have and at the same time envying them.</p>
25	<p>This distorted perception of life conditions is also responsible for the endemic competitive attitude that afflicts humanity. This is manifest particularly strongly in some civilizations at certain periods of their history. However, understanding the spiritual truth in this matter makes it impossible for people to measure themselves against any other person. Comparison between two people is totally unrealistic; it measures what cannot be measured. The person who is no longer caught in this error will be free from a specific strain of destructiveness. Once you comprehend the uniting principle, that good is never divisible, a number of problems are eliminated. You will not be envious and therefore you will not feel guilty. You will not be faced with the apparent necessity of renouncing something in favor of someone else, because you will know deeply that what is yours is yours and what is the other person's is his or hers. That very fact will make the selfishness and dishonesty existing in the childish nature, where the tendency to cheat life always prevails, impossible. You will not have to try to get away with anything, nor will you have to see yourself as special when you compare yourself with others.</p>
26	<p>In the last question and answer session we discussed this topic in connection with a question about the harm of desire or need to be special. In connection with the topic of this lecture, I say that this need is due to confusing the rightful tendency toward, and the inner need to bring about, full self-realization. What is the confusion here? Full self-realization always enhances the uniqueness of the individual. It does not level off individuality, nor does it imply mediocrity in the least. Quite the contrary. Why, then, is it believed that not needing to be special means giving up individuality or even accepting</p>

	<p>mediocrity? The answer is that when the need to be special contains a desire to triumph over others, it marks an attitude of being against others. It implies that self-enhancement can only exist at the expense of others. This is the either/or resulting from the erroneous dualistic concepts which are always destructive. It actually does destroy the other's value, at least in terms of your desire and aim, if not in actual fact. The further consequence is that the deep-seated self-regulating process of conscience says no to this endeavor and stops the outgoing energy current. The current then becomes either negative or numbed. This means that you are either passive, paralyzed and held back, or you are ruthless, with the inevitable guilt and outer consequences.</p>
27	<p>The truth of the matter and the solution to this confusion can only be found when you distinguish between two totally different ways of measuring or of evaluating what amounts to two totally different goals. When you want to be special in order to triumph over others, when your uniqueness exists at the expense of others and measures itself against others, this uniqueness is destructive and must lead to innumerable problems. But when you realize that your own specialness can be unlocked without measuring yourself against others, you will have no problem whatsoever. You will be free to unblock and unfold the best in yourself without infringing upon other people's rights or needs. Quite the contrary, your best will contribute to others rather than take away from them, and you will give your best without the need to cheat, to get by, to get more than you give. The freeing of the power will activate more power. There will be no need to put the brakes on. Envy, guilt, dishonesty, and the belittling of others create the need to put the brakes on one's most constructive outgoing power current.</p>
28	<p>When you are ignorant of the fact that you have within you the possibilities for self-fulfillment, the only way you can conceive of expressing yourself is by measuring and comparing yourself with others. When you know that, regardless of whether you are better or worse than others, you have your own quota of growth to fulfill for yourself, you will not have any conflict about this issue. Of course you should give your best, but if in any way, no matter how secretly, your best is designed to lord it over others or to get special unfair privileges, and obtain something for nothing, you will get yourself in trouble. Then individuality cannot unfold because ego, vanity, and ruthlessness take its place and automatically hinder the positive power at work and convert it into destructive power.</p>
29	<p>When you feel envy, or -- looking at the other side of the same coin -- a need to impress others or be better than they are, try to feel the constructive power behind the need. For this need is only a distortion of the inborn urge to realize the best in you. When you do this, you will no longer find yourself blocked and paralyzed.</p>

Pathwork Lecture 219 on competition and envy...

(Stump the Guide lecture on original positive aspects in negative distortion)

30	QUESTION: Competitiveness? Self-centeredness, wanting to be the center of attention?
31	ANSWER: Self-centeredness is a direct distortion of seeking your inner center. If you are centered within your divine self, then vanity and egotism stop. Vanity and egotism exist if the search for the divine nucleus is applied to the separated ego. Ambitiousness and competitiveness are a distortion of the inner movement to create the best that you can be. But, again, when put into the service of the separated ego, it becomes an endeavor that sets oneself into opposition to another self. In reality, on the divine level of inner truth this does not exist. All can be their best without interfering with one another. In its original it is, "How can I be my potential best?" In its distortion it manifests as, "How can I be better than others?"