

Pathwork on
**Purpose of Life on Earth – Not Heaven, Not
 Hopelessness**

This quote from Pathwork Lecture 151 *Intensity: An Obstacle to Self-Realization*, leads us to the purpose for our life on earth: Facing and accepting ourselves as we are and choosing to live our lives from our Higher Selves. It is not about believing dogmas or doing practices so that we “go to heaven when we die, rather than hell.” It is not about reward/punishment by a God “out there.” It is not about living in hopelessness of a meaningless life. Rather it is about taking self-responsibility for how we live our lives and realizing that we – in our beliefs, attitudes, conclusions about life, etc. – have created the life we are living. And we can make different choices, and have a better life, by the grace of God. *If we so choose.*

35	<p>QUESTION: Somehow, for the first time, your lecture upset me very much. I ask myself if this is so because I am near the point you are talking about and resist it?</p>
36	<p>ANSWER: Can you pinpoint what upset you in the lecture?</p> <p>QUESTION: It has to do with the hope a human being could have...</p> <p>ANSWER: It upsets you because you are not yet quite ready to trust it. It is upsetting in a sense that one knows these possibilities exist, and yet one does not trust oneself to go that way. This is why a large part of humanity violently subscribes to hopelessness, negativity, to the view that the world is chaotic and senseless. This is as much wishful thinking as the childish hope that a deity will do your salvation for you, or that you could be helped by following other people's advice and authority so that heavenly bliss will descend upon you in a life beyond. The adherence to an outer faith, no matter in what orthodox or unorthodox form, contains as much wishful thinking as hopelessness. The latter says, "There is no need for me to do anything -- face anything unpleasant, change my personality, or give up a destructive attitude I do not wish to shed -- for it all makes no difference anyway."</p>
37	<p>If life makes no sense, if there is no rhyme or reason, if there is no evolution and continuum of all that lives, then, indeed, overcoming of character defects is unnecessary. Subscribing to a nihilistic philosophy of life, one can comfortably shirk unpleasant aspects of self-facing. This is why hopelessness is no less wishful escapism than the hope of being taken care of by an intelligence other than one's own. In both instances it is possible to avoid facing the unflattering facets that destroy the ideals one holds about oneself. Both are two sides of the same coin: the rosy-colored future in a life hereafter, attained by adherence to an outer faith and obedience to laws and rules that come from outside, is fundamentally no different from the hopelessness of nihilism. Both avoid that which seems so difficult -- honest self-facing.</p>