Pathwork Lecture 217: The Phenomenon of Consciousness

1996 Edition, Original Given January 9, 1974

This lecture is given in an **expanded poetic format**, what I call a **Devotional Format** of the lecture, and in that sense this is **my interpretation** of the **intent** of the lecture. I may have interpreted portions differently from you, and I ask you to ponder the words for your own interpretation. I did this Devotional Format so I can take the words into my heart, phrase by phrase, much as I would in reading poetry – that is, **devotionally**.

The blessings to me in developing this format have been truly profound, and my wish is that this Devotional Format will be a blessing to others. I invite you to slowly read and ponder this format of the text – with an open heart to experience the Guide's Presence and Love emerging from among the words such that the wisdom comes to LIVE you.

For clarity: The **original text** is in **bold and** *italicized*. [My adds of commentary/clarification/interpretation are in brackets, italicized, and <u>not</u> bolded.] To learn more of my Devotional Format and see the lectures I have done in this way, go to https://www.garyvollbracht.com/pathwork-lectures/pathwork-lectures-devotional-format/Gary Vollbracht

¶	Content
03	
	Greetings,
	my dearest friends.
	• Love,
	• truth
	and
	• blessings
	are given to you
	in rich abundance.
	Open your
	innermost channels
	and
	let the flow
	stream
	• from
	and
	• into
	you.

```
In this lecture I wish to deal with
                  the phenomenon of
                       consciousness
                          which is so extremely difficult to explain
                              to the human
                                 • mind –
                                     to the human
                                        • state of consciousness.
              For
                  the human
                       state of consciousness
                          is still an extremely limited one [i.e., is still an extremely limited
                                                                          state of consciousness].
              So, by attempting to give you
                  more understanding,
                       • that limitation [i.e., that limitation of human consciousness]
                          can lessen
                    and
                       • you can
                          increase your awareness.
04
              Consciousness
                  permeates
                      all
                          • being,
                       all
                          • creation,
                       all
                          • existence –
                                     everything that is.
              In your
                  dualistic realm,
                      you speak of
                          • consciousness
                        and
                          energy
                              as if they [i.e., as if CONSCIOUSNESS and ENERGY]
                                 were
                                     two separate phenomena.
              This is incorrect [i.e., Consciousness and energy are NOT two separate phenomena].
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```
• Consciousness
         is a
            creator of
                energy
and
    energy
         must contain
                consciousness -
                        [energy must contain]
                           various aspects of consciousness,
                               perhaps [i.e., perhaps energy contains]
                                  • "variations" of consciousness,
                                 as well as
                                  • degrees [i.e., degrees of consciousness].
There is no
    • physical,
    • biological,
    • electrical
  or
    • atomic
         energy
            that could be anywhere near as potent
                   the energy of
                        direct consciousness.
By this [i.e., By "the energy of direct consciousness"]
    I mean
         the energy
            of
                • thought,
                • feeling,
                • intent,
                • attitude,
                • belief.
```

```
05
              Every
                  thought
                       is
                          energy.
              You
                   experience
                       this energy
                           as
                              feeling.
              There cannot be
                   a thought -
                              even the most
                                  • mechanical,
                                  • dead,
                                  • sterile,
                                  • cut-off
                                      thought -
                       that does
                          not also contain
                              feeling.
              • Pure,
              • abstract
                   • thought
                       may
                          appear as
                              totally divorced from
                                  • feeling content.
              This is not so [i.e., Pure, abstract thought is NOT
                                             totally divorced from FEELING content].
              As a matter of fact,
                   the more
                       • abstract
                     and
                       • pure
                          the thought is,
                  the more
                       the feeling
                          must be commensurate with it [i.e., be commensurate with the thought].
```

```
You must also
    differentiate
         between
            • cut-off thought
         and
            • abstract thought.
Don't confuse them.
    • Cut-off thought
         is a
            defense against
                • feelings
              and [against]
                • undesirable aspects
                    of the self.
    • Abstract thought
         is a
            result of a
                • highly integrated,
                • spiritual
                   state.
But even the former [i.e., But even cut-off thought]
    can never
         be divorced from
            • feeling –
        that is, [i.e., that is, can never be divorced from]
            • energy content.
The underlying feeling [i.e., the underlying feeling of cut-off thought]
    might be
         • fear,
         • apprehension,
         anxiety
            about
                the complexity
                    of what the self
                        • suspects to exist
                      and
                        • wishes to avoid.
```

```
• Self-hate,
              and
                   • a variety of other feelings
                        which you well know,
                          may coexist with this [i.e., coexist with this fear,
                                                             apprehension, and anxiety].
06
              [In contrast to cut-off thought]
                   As its
                        underlying energy current,
                          • abstract thought
                               contains a
                                  feeling
                                          • immense peace,
                                          • an intrinsic understanding
                                              of
                                                 universal law
                                                     that is bound to induce
                                                         • joyousness
                                                       and
                                                         • bliss.
                                              A purely abstract thought
                                                 would create this kind of
                                                      • energetic
                                                    or
                                                     • feeling
                                                         experience [i.e. create a feeling experience
                                                                              of joyousness and bliss].
               The more
                   subjective [and hence the less objective]
                       the thought is,
              the more
                   tinged with
                        negativity
                          the feeling becomes.
```

```
[In contrast to an objective thought,]
                   A subjective thought
                        is one that is
                           created
                               from
                                  personal
                                       • desire
                                and
                                  personal
                                       • fear,
                               from
                                  a state of
                                       • egotism
                                     and
                                       • separation –
                                                 • me
                                              versus
                                                 • the other.
              It [i.e., A subjective thought]
                   is therefore
                       never
                           in truth.
07
              Let us, for example, examine
                   • desire.
              In the realm of
                   duality,
                       like everything else [i.e., like everything else in the realm of duality],
                           desire
                               fulfills
                                  a dual role.
```

```
Desire.
         from a spiritual point of view,
    may be
          "undesirable,"
                 to use a paradox.
For
    • too much desire,
    • intense desire,
    • subjective desire -
                 desire stemming from
                    • the ego
                    • its distortions [i.e., and the ego's distortions] –
         alienates you
            from
                 the core of your being.
Such desire [i.e., Desire that is too strong, intense, and subjective – desire of the ego]
    often contains
         • pride,
         • self-will,
         • fear,
         • lack of trust in the universe.
It [i.e., Such desire, containing pride, self-will, fear, and lack of trust in the universe]
    • creates a
         • tense,

    contracted

            energy system
  and
    • prevents
         the flow
            of the life force.
Hence
    spiritual teachings
         often advocate
            a state of
                 desirelessness
                    as a necessary prerequisite
                        for connecting with
                            the divine self.
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```
It [i.e., A state of desirelessness]
                   is a state to be cherished
                       for spiritual self-realization.
08
              At the same time,
                   it is
                       equally true that
                          if there is
                              • no desire,
                          there cannot be
                               • expansion.
                          There cannot be
                              • venturing out
                                  into
                                      · new ground,
                                 into
                                      • new
                                         • realizations
                                       and
                                         • states of awareness.
                          There can be [i.e., With NO DESIRE, there can be]

    development

                             and
                              no
                                  • purification.
              For what would [i.e., For WITHOUT DESIRE, what would]
                   motivate an individual
                       to muster the
                          • courage,
                          • perseverance
                        and
                          • steadfastness
                              necessary
                                  to grope one's way
                                      out of
                                         • darkness
                                        and
                                         • suffering?
```

```
Only desire does [i.e., Only DESIRE motivates an individual to grope one's way
                                                                     out of darkness and suffering].
               This kind of desire
                   contains
                        • faith in the possibility
                               of attaining a better state,
                        • courage,
                        • patience
                     and
                        • commitment.
09
              Here you have a
                   typical example of a
                       dualistic confusion
                           that arises when you say that
                               it is
                                  either
                                       • right
                                  or
                                       • wrong
                                          to have desire,
                                              depending on which aspect of it [i.e., which aspect
                                                                                            of desire]
                                                 you perceive.
               You can transcend the
                   • painful,
                   • confusing
                  and
                   • limited
                       state of
                           dualistic consciousness
                               only when you
                                  • see beyond the either/or
                                and
                                  • see the
                                       • true
                                     and [i.e., and also the]

    distorted

                                          possibilities of
                                              both apparent opposites.
```

```
The moment you see this [i.e., see beyond the "either/or" state of consciousness and
         see BOTH the true AND distorted possibilities of BOTH apparent opposites],
    opposites
         exist no longer.
You then
    pass into a
         • deeper
      and
         • wider
            state of consciousness,
                in which you comprehend
                   beyond the
                        limited dualistic state.
This [i.e., Seeing beyond the "either/or" state of consciousness and seeing BOTH
         the true AND distorted possibilities of BOTH apparent opposites],
    applies to
         many manifestations
            of your life.
Rarely
    if ever
         is anything in itself
            • good
           or
            • bad.
[Rather than being good or bad in itself,]
    It [i.e., the goodness or badness of a thing]
         depends on
            • how it [i.e., on HOW the thing itself]
                manifests,
            • what the
                true underlying motivations are.
Desire
    must exist
         in the human heart
            in order to overcome
                • the hurdles,
                • the temptations to self-deceit,
                   which block the way
                        to the
                           abstract knowledge of the universe.
```

	This does
	not
	mean, I repeat,
	abstraction in the sense of
	• mechanical,
	• dead,
	• alienated,
	• superficial,
	• unfeeling
	or
	• defensive
	thinking.
	mmung.
10	
	How can
	• knowledge,
	• knowing –
	which is consciousness –
	be unfeeling?
	oe unjeeting.
	Even
	• unfeeling knowing,
	what you call in this era
	• "intellectual knowledge,"
	must have a
	feeling content.
	jeeung comem.
	It [i.e., "Intellectual knowledge"]
	stirs up
	certain chain reactions.
	Certain Chain reactions.

```
And even though
    • such knowledge [i.e., such "intellectual knowledge"]
         may be fragmented,
  and though
    • people may use it [i.e., may use such fragmented "intellectual knowledge"]
         to get away from the
            • energy or
            • feeling
                aspect of living,
it [i.e., "intellectual knowledge"]
    nevertheless contains
         • feeling, as I mentioned before,
            although
                they may [i.e., although people may]
                   not recognize
                       these feelings.
So.
    consciousness
         is always
            • a feeling,
            • an energy manifestation,
                whether or not you are aware of it [i.e., aware of a feeling].
The most
    • mechanical,
    • fragmented and
    • cut-off
         thought
            breeds a series of
                energy chain reactions
                   in your entire psychic system.
The power of
    choosing
         which thought
            to think
                in itself
                   • stems from
                       strong energy movements
                 and
                   • results in
                        affect.
```

```
Therefore [i.e., For all the above reasons]
                  • consciousness
                must be one with
                  • energy.
11
              In the
                  average
                       human state
                          this [i.e., consciousness being one with energy, and
                                      knowledge being one with feeling]
                              does not seem to hold true,
                                  at first sight.
              However,
                  when you go deeper,
                       you are bound to see that
                          • whatever knowledge you harbor
                       has a
                          • definite feeling content.
              As I said -
                          and I purposely repeat this,
                              for it cannot be emphasized enough in this context -
                  • dry,
                  • cut-off

    knowledge

                          must also contain
                              • feelings.
              The underlying
                  • feeling
                       [connected with dry, cut-off knowledge]
                          may be
                              • fear.
              The more superficial
                  • energetic state [i.e., The more superficial energetic state of FEAR]
                          may be
                              • boredom.
```

```
Boredom
    is also an
         energetic state,
            although
                a negative one -
                               negative in the sense that
                                  the absence
                                      of something
                                         does not mean
                                              that what is absent
                                                 is not
                                                     • intrinsically
                                                   and

    essentially

                                                        present.
It [i.e., What is intrinsically and essentially present in BOREDOM]
    is only
         temporarily
            made
                absent.
If you pursue the
    state of boredom
         deeper into
            the recesses of the soul substance,
you will find
    that there is
         always
           fear
                somewhere:
                       fear of
                           knowing
                               all you can know now,
                                  about
                                      • yourself
                                and
                                  about
                                      • your relationship with
                                         the universe.
```

```
12
               The relationship
                   between
                        • vou
                   and
                        • the universe
                           becomes increasingly obvious
                               as you
                                  · discover yourself,
                               as you
                                  • become more honest with yourself,
                               as you
                                  • stop acting out.
              States of consciousness
                   can roughly be differentiated into
                       the following three groups:
13
               The first
                   and least developed [i.e., The first and least developed state of consciousness]
                        is the state of
                           • slumber,
                               where a being
                                  does not know it exists.
              It [i.e., A being at the first and least developed state of consciousness]
                   has
                        no
                           self-awareness.
              It [i.e., A being at the first and least developed state of consciousness]
                   can
                        • feel
                     and
                        • move
                     and
                        · grow,
                     and even, to an extent,
                        • think.
                           but below the threshold of
                               self-awareness,
                                  like
                                       • a mineral or
                                       • a plant.
```

```
The organisms
    beneath
         the state of self-awareness
            have nevertheless
                in-built patterns of
                   • creation,
                   • self-creation,
                        which that particular organism
                           follows through in a deeply
                               • meaningful,
                               • purposeful
                                   way,
                                       always compatible with
                                          its particular lawfulness.
These states are
    states of
         · consciousness,
 but not
    states of
         • self-consciousness.
Take for example
    the life of a
        plant:
            it follows its own
                in-built plan.
Only its [i.e., Only the plant's]
    now slumbering
         consciousness
            could create
                • that plan,
            could create
                • the imprint
                   with all its own lawful cycles
                        by which the organism
                           • lives,
                           • expands,
                           • dies.
                           • reincorporates itself,
                           • gives birth to itself,
                           • expresses itself
                           • goes on in that same cycle.
```

```
This requires an
                  immensely intelligent plan
                       that only
                          consciousness
                              could fabricate.
              Something like this
                  cannot happen
                       • "by itself,"
                  cannot be a
                       • dead,

    disconnected

                         process.
14
              The
                  apparent
                       disconnection
                          of inanimate matter
                              is only
                                 temporarily
                                     frozen
                                        consciousness,
                                             as I explained in a recent lecture on
                                                the processes of
                                                    • creation
                                                  and
                                                    • the psychic nuclear points
                                                      [See Lectures 214 Psychic Nuclear Points and
                                                      Lecture 215 Psychic Nuclear
                                                      Points Continued – Process in the Now].
              When consciousness
                  creates
                       in a certain direction,
              the life spark
                  slows down
                       and down,
                          until
                              the energetic stream
                                 petrifies.
```

```
It [i.e., The petrified energetic stream]
    condenses into such a thick crust
         that
            the underlying energy
                   • invisible,
                that is,
                   • not perceivable with the human eye.
However,
    beings
         whose expanded state of consciousness
            makes them capable of
                perceiving
                   more than the surface,
                       can observe very clearly
                          the highly potent
                               energy aspect
                                  within inanimate matter
                                      which has
                                          no
                                             manifest
                                                consciousness.
But such beings [i.e., But such beings with expanded states of consciousness]
    can also perceive [i.e., can also perceive, in addition to perceiving
                the highly potent ENERGY aspect within inanimate matter,]
         • the consciousness
            content within
                this potent energy,
         • the consciousness
            contained within
                the
                   outwardly
                        "dead" material.
```

```
15
              What does such consciousness [i.e., What does such consciousness contained within
                                                                    the outwardly "dead" material]
                  "say"
                      when it is aslumber?
              It may say,
                              • "I do not want to know;
                              • I do not want to know
                                 me –
                                     me in relationship to
                                        the world around me."
              This statement [i.e., The statement, "I do not want to know, to know me – me
                                                           in relationship to the world around me"]
                  is a
                       creative nucleus -
                                     a statement made
                                        by
                                             · consciousness,
                                        by
                                             • deliberate
                                                • choice
                                              and
                                                • disposition.
              This statement [i.e., The statement, "I do not want to know, to know me – me
                                                           in relationship to the world around me"]
                  brings forth
                      an inexorable chain of events,
                          leading gradually
                              but surely
                                 to the
                                     • condensed,
                                     • slowed-down
                                        state
                                             that finally becomes
                                                a "crust,"
                                                    • hardened
                                                 and apparently
                                                    · dead.
              This is what
                  matter
                       is composed of.
```

```
The sequence of events
                  leading to
                      the state of
                          • hardened,
                          • inanimate
                              matter
                                 stems from a
                                     • negative,
                                     • life [i.e., life-negating]
                                   and
                                     • truth-negating
                                        statement.
              Nevertheless,
                  once the hardening process is in action,
                       matter itself
                          can be used by
                              consciousness
                                 for
                                     • life-affirming
                                   and
                                     • positive
                                        purposes.
              Free consciousness
                  can thus
                       "communicate"
                          with the
                              • life-substance
                           and
                              • consciousness
                                 within
                                     the hardened matter.
16
              I give you this very brief explanation
                  so that you can gain
                      some concept about
                          the fact that
                              consciousness
                                 exists
                                     even within
                                        inanimate objects.
```

```
Your scientists today
                  have already ascertained
                      that
                          energy
                              exists within matter,
                                 so that part is hardly news to you.
              You have yet to ascertain
                  that the same
                       holds true about
                         • consciousness [i.e., that CONSCIOUSNESS also exists within MATTER].
17
              Consciousness
                  within
                      inanimate objects
                         is reachable
                              by the
                                 · much stronger and
                                 • more active
                                     consciousness
                                        of the human mind,
                                            though [i.e., though INANIMATE objects are reachable
                                                       by the consciousness of the human mind]
                                               to a lesser degree
                                                    than
                                                       the consciousness within
                                                           • plants,
                                                           • animals,
                                                           • other human beings [i.e., to a lesser
                                                             degree than the consciousness within
                                                             plants, animals, or other human beings
                                                             is reachable by the consciousness of
                                                             the human mind].
              Matter
                  • is still malleable
                and
                  • can be impressed
                       by human consciousness.
```

```
Since
    consciousness
         is capable of
            • inventing
          and
            • creating,
it [i.e., consciousness]
    can
         • mold,
         • shape,
       and
         • form
            out of the
                substances
                   within
                        matter.
Take, for example,
    the need to have
         • a piece of furniture,
      or
         • a plate,
      or
         • a glass,
      or
         • a piece of jewelry,
      or
         • whatever the inanimate object may be.
```

```
That need -
                       that desire to create these objects -
                   molds the
                        energy
                      and [i.e., and also molds the]
                        • contained consciousness
                           so that even the most alienated aspect of consciousness,
                                                      like inanimate matter [in this case],
                               • receives the imprints of a
                                  • directing,
                                  • stronger,
                                and

    more connected

                                       consciousness,
                           and
                               • fuses with it [i.e., and the consciousness of even inanimate matter
                                                   fuses with the directing, stronger, consciousness]
                                  in certain definite ways.
               Thus
                   an object
                        is created.
18
              So every object you
                   • use,
                   • enjoy,
                 or
                   need
                       fulfills its task.
```

```
Its [i.e., Every object's]
    innermost nucleus of consciousness
        that always
            seeks expression
                toward
                   • the divine,
                toward
                   • service,
                toward
                   • truth,
                toward
                   · love,
                toward
                   • being –
                           even in this
                               • separated

    deadened

                                  state –
                        • "replies" to
                           the creation of mind
                     and thus
                        • fulfills a purpose
                           in the great plan of evolution.
Even the deadest
    of all dead matter
         is not really dead.
Spiritual beings
    who are
         • in greater possession of their
            innate divine faculties
      and
         • not bound to the
            purely outer
                manifestation
                   as human beings are,
            can perceive
                • the energy form
              and
                • the consciousness expression
                       the most inanimate objects.
```

```
Such an [inanimate] object
                   also contains an
                        energy field,
                           which is
                               its
                                  • antenna,
                               its
                                  • receiving station,
                                       so that it
                                          must become
                                              a reactor.
              Its [i.e., Such an inanimate object's]
                   consciousness content
                       is still too limited
                           to be more than
                               a reactor.
              It [i.e., Such an inanimate object]
                   cannot be as yet an
                        • initiator
                     and

    creator

                           as the human state is,
                               but it [i.e., but such an inanimate object]
                                  is definitely
                                       a reactor.
19
               You may often find
                   that you have
                       certain relationships with
                           objects.
               There are some objects
                   you
                        • cherish,
                        need
                      and
                        • enjoy.
               They perform well for you.
```

```
You may think that you
    love them [i.e., you THINK you love these objects you cherish, need, and enjoy]
         because
            they
                • perform well
              and
                • give you
                   • good service,
                   • beauty,
                  or
                   • joy.
But it [i.e., But your RELATIONSHIP with these objects that you
                think you love because they give you good service, beauty, or joy]
    is one of those
         benign circles
            working
                where it is hard to say
                   • what
                 or
                   • who
                        started it going.
Take, for example,
    • a motor car,
    • a machine you use,
         like
            • a record player,
            • whatever it may be.
You love that machine.
You may even use it for
    your spiritual growth
         in one manner or another,
            so the purely utilitarian object
                is really
                   not so utilitarian after all.
You give it care.
```

```
Your appreciation
                  makes the machine respond,
                       even with its
                          • extremely limited,
                          • small
                              inner nucleus of consciousness
                                 that is just geared
                                       to

    respond

                                       and
                                         • react,
                                       to be
                                         • impressed
                                       and
                                         • molded.
              Its energy field
                  will be affected.
              With other objects
                  it is the other way around.
                       • They never
                          work out well.
                       • You
                          • hate them,
                          • are annoyed with them,
                              and
                                 they respond accordingly.
20
              The separation of consciousness
                  that you
                       experience
                          is therefore
                              a very debatable one.
              When we speak of the fact
                  that
                       the whole universe
                          is permeated with consciousness,
              this is indeed a truth.
```

```
Separated
                   • organisms,
                   • objects
                 and
                   • entities
                       are separated
                          only
                               on the surface level.
              But
                   • within
                 and
                   • beneath
                       that surface level
                          there is a
                               constant
                                  interaction.
21
              I started to speak about
                   the three stages of consciousness.
              I dwelled for a long time [i.e., for a long time in this lecture]
                   on the first state:
                       consciousness
                          without
                               self-awareness.
                   • Animals,
                   • plants,
                   • minerals,
                 and
                   • inanimate matter
                     fall under this category.
              I wanted to show that
                   nothing
                       exists
                          that does not contain consciousness.
```

```
It is of course
                   much easier to see this [i.e., is much easier to see that nothing exists
                                                             that does not contain consciousness]
                       with
                          • animals,
                          • plants
                         and even
                          • minerals,
                               which have their
                                  • growth
                                and
                                  • change
                                      processes,
                                         though much slower ones
                                             than the other categories [i.e., than animals and plants].
22
              The second state [i.e., The second of the three states of consciousness]
                   is
                       • self-awareness,
                          which begins
                               at the human level.
              What does
                  self-awareness
                       mean?
                               Awareness of
                                  • "I am,"
                                  • "I exist,"
                                  • "I can think,"
                                  • "I can make a decision,"
                                  • "My decisions have impact,"
                                  • "My thoughts have effect,"
                                  • "My feelings reach other beings."
              This will be roughly [i.e., This human level of self-awareness will be roughly]
                       the second state [i.e., the second of the three states of consciousness].
              In this state [i.e., in this second state or stage of consciousness,
                                                            the human state of SELF-AWARENESS,]
                  self-responsibility begins.
```

below the threshold of self-awareness]

```
The awareness of
    having
         an effect
            on the world around the self
                must result in

    accountability

                 and
                   • the seriousness
                        of choosing
                           • thoughts,
                           • attitudes,
                           • actions
                         and
                           • responses.
This state of consciousness [i.e., This second of the three states of consciousness,
                                              this state of human self-awareness],
         by virtue of its
            expanded awareness,
    finds many new alternatives
         which are lacking in the
            • blind
          and
            • more limited
                state [i.e., blind and more limited FIRST state of consciousness].
The state of consciousness
    below the threshold of
        self-awareness [i.e., in the limited FIRST state of consciousness]
            cannot make choices.
It [i.e., Objects in the FIRST state of consciousness, the state of conscious
```

blindly follows

the in-built pattern

implanted in its substance.

```
The human state [i.e., The human or SECOND state of consciousness]
                  • is capable of
                       re-creating the plan,
               and
                  • may increasingly avail itself
                       of wider possibilities
                          of self-expression,
                              commensurate with
                                 its own growth.
23
              It is very obvious that
                  within the human state
                       of
                          • consciousness,
                          • self-awareness,
                              there are
                                 • many,
                                      • many
                                        • degrees
                                       and
                                        • variations.
              [At the lower levels if human consciousness]
                  You have human beings
                       who are as yet unaware
                           of
                              • themselves,
                              • their power to
                                 • create,
                                 • change
                               and
                                 • affect.
```

```
[At these lower levels if human consciousness]
    • Their [i.e., Human beings']
         ability to differentiate
            is as yet limited,
    • their [i.e., these human beings']
        power to
            • think
          and

    act

                independently
                   is equally limited.
To them
    words such as these [i.e., words such as, "ability to differentiate,
                                              to think and act independently,"]
         could hardly make more sense
            than to an animal.
They [i.e., Words such as, "ability to differentiate, to think and act independently"]
    would be
        meaningless to them [i.e., meaningless to those human beings
                                       at the lower levels of human consciousness].
[On the other hand, at higher levels of human consciousness,]
    There are other human beings
         whose consciousness
            is already
                far more developed.
They [i.e., These human beings whose consciousness is already far more developed]
    know quite well
         that they have the power
             to
                • choose,
             to
                • create
          and
             to
                • affect.
```

```
They [i.e., These human beings at higher levels of human consciousness]
                  are
                       • self-responsible
                    and
                       • accountable for their decisions
                          to think
                              • one way
                            rather than
                              • another.
              To them [i.e., To these human beings at higher levels of human consciousness]
                  such words [i.e., such words as, "ability to differentiate,
                                                    to think and act independently,"]
                       • make sense
                    and
                       • are an
                          • inspiration
                        and
                          • encouragement.
              There are of course
                  many degrees of consciousness
                       in-between these two categories [i.e., in between these two categories of
                                     very LOW and very HIGH levels of human consciousness].
24
              However,
                  even those human beings
                       whose consciousness is
                          least developed
                              are aware
                                 that they
                                     exist.
              They [i.e., Those human beings whose consciousness is least developed]
                  know that they
                       • have needs
                     and
                       • can, up to a degree,
                         figure out how to
                              fulfill these needs.
```

```
They [i.e., Those human beings whose consciousness is least developed]
                  know that they
                       can act.
             Maybe their scope
                  is more limited
                      than the
                          • scope
                        and
                          • power to affect
                              of a more highly developed
                                 human personality,
              but nevertheless
                  there is an immense difference
                      between
                          • them [i.e., between those human beings
                                            whose consciousness is least developed]
                      and
                          • the highest-developed
                              animal state of consciousness.
              The latter [i.e., Beings with an animal state of consciousness]
                  may have
                      some awakening power of
                          thinking,
                  but self-consciousness,
                          in the sense I have described,
                       is completely lacking.
25
              The human state
                  of self-awareness
                      lives within
                          its
                              self-created
                                 dimension of time.
```

```
Thus
    the sense of
         • past,
         • present,
       and
         • future
            awakens in
                • the human mind,
            but does not exist in
                • the lower states of consciousness [i.e., in plants and animals].
As in many areas of development,
    there is a similarity
         between
            • the lowest
         and
            • the highest
                point of the curve,
                    which in this case [i.e., in this case the SIMILARITY between the
                               lowest and highest state of CONSCIOUSNESS]
                        is
                           the state of
                               being.
[On the lowest level of the consciousness curve]
    • Inanimate matter,
    • minerals,
    • plants,
  and
    • animals
         do
            not
                live within
                    time.
They [i.e., Inanimate matter, minerals, plants, and animals]
    exist in a
         timeless
            state of being,
but they are
    without
         • self-consciousness,
         • self-determination,
         • a self-propelling initiative.
```

```
[In contrast to the lowest or first state of consciousness, the state of "being," the state
                               of consciousness of inanimate matter, minerals, plants and animals,]
                   The human state of consciousness [i.e., or, the second state of consciousness,]
                        is
                           in time.
              It [i.e., The human, or second, state of consciousness]
                   is therefore
                        not
                           in the state of
                               • being [i.e., is NOT in the state of BEING as the first state is],
                        but [rather]
                           in the state of
                               • becoming,
                                   though it is already
                                       fully in possession of
                                          self-awareness.
              On the highest rise of the curve [i.e., on the third state of consciousness]
                   we return to the
                        timeless state of
                           • being [i.e., where we were in the first state of consciousness],
                               but [in this third state]
                                   with a
                                       high degree of consciousness [i.e., consciousness even
                                               beyond human self-consciousness of the second state].
26
               This third state [i.e., This third state of consciousness]
                   is the highest state
                        of the three.
               We might call it [i.e., We might call this third and highest state of consciousness]
                   • universal consciousness,
                 or perhaps
                   • cosmic consciousness.
               That [i.e., That state of universal or cosmic consciousness]
                     is
                        bevond
                           the human state [i.e., beyond the second state of consciousness, beyond
                              the human state of consciousness or beyond the state of self-awareness].
```

```
In that state [i.e., In the state of universal or cosmic consciousness]
    • all
         is one,
    • there is
         no separation [i.e., there is no self that is
                                        separate from the all – separate from the one].
In that state of consciousness [i.e., In that third, universal, or cosmic
                                                               state of consciousness]
    • all
         is known.
    • The innermost self
         is known,
    • the God-self
         is known.
    • The God-self
         of the
            • personal entity,
         as well as that of [i.e., as well as the God-self of]
            • other entities
                 is known.
    • The truth of
         • being
            is known.
In that state of consciousness [i.e., In that third, universal, or cosmic
                                                               state of consciousness]
    you live in a
         state of
            being.
```

```
But on this level of development [i.e., On this third, universal, or cosmic
                                                                            state of consciousness]
                   the state of being
                       surpasses
                          • self-
                               awareness.
              It [i.e., That third, universal, or cosmic state of consciousness]
                        has reached
                          • universal
                               awareness.
               To put this differently,
                       and possibly more accurately:
                   the self
                       is recognized
                          as being
                               in
                                  all
                                      that exists.
27
              If you
                   • ponder
                 and
                   • meditate about
                       the deeper meaning
                          of these three states,
              you will
                   • see a great deal
                and

    understand

                        much more about
                          the greater life
                               of which
                                  you form a part.
```

```
The "innocent"
                  state of being
                       can exist
                          in purity only.
              This purity
                   can exist [i.e., can exist at the lowest levels of development]
                       in one who
                          • is still
                               • blindly unaware,
                               • unconscious,
                               • powerless,
                    or [i.e., or can exist at the HIGHEST levels of development]
                       in one who
                          • has regained
                               the state of innocence
                                  through the
                                      • laborious
                                         descent
                                    and
                                      • simultaneous
                                         ascent
                                             of
                                                 self-purification.
              Then [i.e., Then, when one has regained the state of innocence through
                       the laborious descent and simultaneous ascent of self-purification,]
                  power
                       can merge
                          with
                               the timeless state
                                  of
                                      the eternal now.
28
              There is a
                  self-protective lawfulness
                       in the lack of awareness
                          of
                               the innate potency of consciousness
                                  as long as
                                      the soul is
                                         not purified.
```

```
As you can all
    so clearly observe on your path,
         this power [i.e., this power of consciousness]
            increases
                in exact proportion
                   to your ability
                        to be in
                           truth
                               with
                                   yourself
                                 and
                                   • others.
If you could
    be aware of
         the potency to create
            while there is evil intent in you,
you could
    • harm,
    • wreak
         • havoc
       and
         • destruction
            to a much stronger degree
                than what now
                   must exist [i.e., than the harm and destruction you now inflict]
                       for the purpose of
                           the self-activating principle
                               in which
                                  the negative result [i.e., the negative result of
                                                                     your evil intent]
                                       becomes
                                          the medicine [i.e., the medicine leading to
                                                                          purification].
```

```
29
              However
                  unjust
                       an evil manifestation
                          may now appear to you,
                              it only
                                  appears
                                      that way
                                         because
                                             in your
                                                 • limited
                                                 • time-bound
                                                     state
                                                        you are not in possession of
                                                             the connections [i.e., the connections
                                                                           between cause and effect].
              Were you thus aware [i.e., aware of the connections between cause and effect],
                  you would see that
                       all negative manifestations,
                                      no matter how
                                         • cruel or
                                         • unjust
                                              they may
                                                 seem,
                          are self-created medicine
                              for the purpose of
                                  ultimate
                                      • purification
                                and
                                  ultimate
                                      • bliss.
              Evil

    does not

                 and
                   • cannot
                       destroy -
                              it can do so only [i.e., evil can destroy only]
                                  • temporarily
                                 and
                                  • within the framework
                                      of what I just mentioned [i.e., framework of self-created
                                                     medicine for purification and ultimate bliss].
```

```
If consciousness
    could expand
         without
            the simultaneous expansion
                of the self-purifying agents,
evil
    could destroy
         the divine.
So,
    as an in-built protective mechanism,
        negativity
            closes
                the perceptive organs:
                   • blindness,
                   • deafness,
                   • dumbness,
                 and
                   • numbness
                       set in.
The only way
    to come out of this state
          of
            • ignorance,
            • limitation,
            • powerlessness,
            • being severed from
                the nucleus
                   where there is
                       all-connecting life,
                          is by
                              the consistent attempt
                                  to know
                                      yourself
                                         where you are
                                             • now –
                                                     not
                                                        to know
                                                            • the universe
                                                          or
                                                            • anything outside you.
```

```
That [i.e., Knowing the universe or anything outside you]
                   comes later -
                              gratuitously, as it were.
              To concentrate on that [i.e., To concentrate on the universe or anything outside you]
                   would be
                       pursuing
                          a delusion.
30
              Knowing
                  yourself
                       is a
                          • slow,
                          • step-by-step
                              process.
              It [i.e., Knowing yourself]
                   doesn't
                       ever
                          require
                              an impossible feat of you.
              It [i.e., Knowing yourself]
                   only demands
                       what is indeed
                          possible,
                               to deal with something
                                  right there in front of your eyes,
                                      if only
                                         you choose to see it.
              You can use
                  your best
                       • will
                     and
                       • intent
                          to find out
                               what you
                                  ought to
                                      know about yourself
                                         at every step of the way.
```

```
There is
    no fraction of time in your life, my friends,
         where this [i.e., where knowing yourself]
             is
                not
                  possible.
You can be sure that
    when you are in a
        disharmonious state,
    vou are
        not as aware
           as you could be.
To become more aware
    often requires
         intense
           • groping
         and
           • searching.
And that [i.e., And that intense groping and searching]
    is indeed
        part of your life task.
You may often
    look in the
         wrong direction
           for the answer
                to the present disharmony.
Indeed,
    you often resist [i.e., resist looking in the RIGHT direction]
         because
           you fear something
                much "worse"
                   than
                       what actually exists.
```

```
You would find this out [i.e., find out that you fear something much "worse" than
                                                                                what actually exists]
                   if only you had the
                       • courage
                     and

    determination

                          to go
                               • all
                                  the way,
                               • at all
                                  times.
31
              The
                   • disharmonious state,
              the
                   • anxious state,
              the
                   • unhappy state,
              the
                   • depressed state,
              the state of
                   • unrest
                 and
                   • fear
                 and
                   • negative,
                   • contracted
                       • pain
                          is always a reflection of
                               something you might
                                  • know
                                      right now,
                               but choose -
                                      yes, literally choose -
                                  • not
                                      to know.
              That choice [i.e., That choice NOT to KNOW what could be known right NOW]
                   creates a
                       very potent
                          negative energy field.
```

```
This path [i.e., This pathwork]
                  helps you to
                       deactivate
                          these negative energy fields [i.e., to deactivate these very potent negative
                                                     energy fields created by your CHOICE NOT to
                                                     KNOW what could be known right NOW]
                              by changing the
                                  consciousness content
                                      in them [i.e., by changing the consciousness content
                                                                   in these negative energy fields].
              The first vital step here [i.e., The first step to change the consciousness content
                                                                   in these negative energy fields]
                  would be
                       to transform the
                              • "I do not want to know"
                       into an
                              • "I want to know,"
                                      and follow it through.
              You can give yourself
                  this
                       adventure
                           of
                              discovery.
32
              In the preliminary stages
                  of this phase
                       of evolutionary development,
                          you must
                              eliminate
                                  the blind spots
                                      about
                                         the self,
                                             so that
                                                the self
                                                     can find out the answers
                                                        about itself.
```

```
You cannot
                  awaken
                       into a higher state [i.e., You CANNOT awaken into
                                                    a higher state of consciousness]
                          as long as
                              you do
                                 not know
                                     what you
                                             • choose,
                                     what you
                                             • think,
                                     what you
                                             • feel,
                                     what you
                                             • need,
                                     what you
                                             • desire.
              Once you
                  do know [i.e., DO KNOW what you choose, think, feel, need, and desire],
                      you have increased
                          your power to
                              change
                                 what is
                                     • destructive
                                   and
                                     • undesirable.
33
              As you go on
                  in this way,
                       there will come a period
                          in which you
                              know
                                 yourself
                                     fairly well,
                          but you
                              are not yet fully aware of
                                 • others.
              Thus you grope
                  with the manifestation
                       of others.
```

```
In your blindness
      to
         • another person's
            negativity,
        or
         • its exact nature [i.e., or the exact nature of another person's negativity],
                you may often
                   lose yourself
                        in
                           • confusion
                         and
                           • disturbance.
Further honest work
    will lead you to
         a clear awareness of
            others.
This [i.e., This clear awareness of others]
    will
         • bring you peace
       and
         • show the way
            to deal with situations.
Along the way,
    you will discover
         new aspects,
                   often
                        very positive ones,
            about yourself.
Often
    only
         a crisis with others
            can bring forth
                such previously ignored aspects.
```

```
34
              The first phase, in this regard [i.e., in regard to your purification, development and
                                                     awakening into a higher state of consciousness],
                  is purely
                       • self-explorative.
              The second phase -
                              often overlapping with the first -
                  expands into
                       knowledge of
                          • others.
              The third phase
                  leads to
                       • universal knowledge
                          beyond
                              the human state.
              That [i.e., This series of three phases in regard to your purification, development and
                                                     awakening into a higher state of consciousness]
                  is the
                       organic development
                          of this path [i.e., of pathwork].
              When I say
                  • knowledge,
                       my friends,
              remember that there are
                  different ways of
                       interpreting this word [i.e., interpreting this word "knowledge"].
```

```
You may have knowledge
    on a purely
        mechanical level.
Such knowledge [i.e., Knowledge on a purely mechanical (or material) level]
    is not
         • insight,
         • wisdom,
         • true perception.
It [i.e., Knowledge on a purely mechanical (or material) level]
    does not give you
        a sense of
           • wonder
         and
           • awe,
    nor does it
        fill you with
           • peace
          and
           • joy.
[Rather]
    It [i.e., Knowledge on a purely mechanical (or material) level]
           • dry,
           • cut-off
                knowledge.
I am talking about
    a different kind
        of knowledge,
           in which
                a kind of
                   comprehension
                       takes place that
                          unites
                              fragmented understanding.
```

```
It [i.e., The kind of knowledge I am talking about here]
    is a
         • deep
       and

    feeling

            knowledge
                that indeed brings
                   • peace
                 and
                   • joy,
                   • awe
                 and
                   • excitement.
                A revelation
                   fills you
                        that
                           removes all dissension.
                 You
                   • experience
                  and
                   • relate
                        in a new way.
But this [i.e., But this kind of knowledge I am talking about here]
    comes
         only much later
            on the path, my friends.
At first
    you will experience the
         beginnings of
            this kind of knowledge [i.e., you will EXPERIENCE the beginnings of
                                       this kind of knowledge I am talking about here]
                only occasionally.
It [i.e., This kind of knowledge I am talking about here]
    manifests much more
         when you are, for instance,
            in a
                helper position.
```

```
35
              The more
                  you expand,
              the more
                   this kind of knowledge [i.e., the more this kind of knowledge
                                                                    I am talking about here]
                       will fill you.
              And as that goes on [i.e., as that expansion goes on],
                   little by little,
                       cosmic knowledge
                          occurs.
                               It [i.e., Cosmic knowledge]
                                  comes from something
                                      deep within you.
                               It [i.e., Cosmic knowledge]
                                  transcends
                                      the personal.
                               It [i.e., Cosmic knowledge]
                                  is timeless
                            and
                               it [i.e., and cosmic knowledge]
                                  gives you
                                      a deep awareness of the
                                         • ongoing,
                                         • ever-present
                                             life
                                                 that
                                                     • vou are
                                              and
                                                 that
                                                     • everything is.
                               This [i.e., This deep awareness of the ongoing, ever-present LIFE
                                              that YOU are and that EVERYTHING is, an awareness
                                              that cosmic knowledge gives you]
                                  fills you
                                      with indescribable
                                         • joy,
                                         • peace,

    security and

                                         • gratitude for what exists.
```

```
You must
                   earn
                       this awareness, my friends,
                              you cannot
                                  aim
                                      directly
                                          at
                                              cosmic consciousness.
                               It [i.e., Cosmic consciousness]
                                  is the final state of
                                      expanded
                                         self-awareness
                                              that you cultivate
                                                 on a path such as this [i.e., such as pathwork].
36
              What I told you in this lecture
                  is specifically designed
                       to make you aware
                          of the potency of
                               • your thoughts,
                          of the potency of
                               • each thought
                                  that you decide to think,
                               • each attitude
                                  you decide to adopt.
              Thought
                   will create

    experiences

                     and
                       • responses,
                 and
                   will also create
                       • within you.
```

```
There [i.e., There within you]
    it [i.e., thought]
         will either
            • create
                a new energy field
    it [i.e., or thought]
         will
            • enforce,
            • reaffirm
           and
            • fasten
                an old one [i.e., an old existing energy field],
                    depending on
                        whether the
                           • thought
                          or
                            • intent
                                is
                                   • new
                              or
                                is
                                   • a repetition of
                                        the old.
Obviously,
    both alternatives [i.e., both creating a NEW
                        and enforcing an OLD existing energy field]
         can apply to
            either
                 • real
            or
                 • false,
                 • constructive
            or
                 • destructive
                    energy fields.
```

```
When you are truly conscious
    of this potency [i.e., this potency of your thoughts],
you become
    more
        • responsible
 and
    more
        • capable of creating.
You then approach the state
    in which you
        know
           that
                God-consciousness
                   is
                       within everything.
The ego
    only decides
        which way to turn.
Right now,
    within your thinking mind
        is the potentiality
           to express God's consciousness
               any way you choose.
And when
    your experience
        is negative,
make sure to find out
    • what created it [i.e., WHAT created the negative experience]
 and
    • how it was created [i.e., and HOW the negative experience was CREATED].
```

```
37
              You can all
                   discover
                       the truth of
                          the power of
                               your consciousness
                                  by making the commitment
                                      • now,
                                         • again
                                              and
                                                 • again,
                                                     to be in
                                                        truth
                                                             with
                                                                yourself
                                                                    in your
                                                                       • daily concerns,
                                                                    in your
                                                                       • reactions,
                                                                    in experiences
                                                                       that leave you
                                                                            • puzzled,
                                                                            • confused
                                                                          or
                                                                            • disturbed.
              When you
                  feel
                       resistance [i.e., resistance to be in truth with yourself in all ways],
                   admit
                       the resistance,
                          rather than
                               glossing over it,
                                  as you may be tempted to do.
              Admit it [i.e., Admit the resistance to be in truth with yourself in all ways]
                   anyway,
                       in spite of the resistance.
              Have faith in
                  the truth.
```

```
More
                  and more,
                       you
                          • will become
                              • free
                            and
                              • joyous
                        and
                          • will liberate yourself
                              of the shackles
                                 that now still
                                      keep you
                                         confined
                                             in a state
                                                less than your birthright.
              Make the commitment to
                  truth
                       • in every possible situation,
                       • about any conceivable incident.
38
              With this
                  • message
                and
                  • suggestion
                       I bless you all
                          with deep love –
                                      the love of the universe -
                              for
                                 all of you,
                                      my most beloved friends.
              Be in peace.
```

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