

## Pathwork Lecture 23: Questions and Answers

1996 Edition, Original Given February 14, 1958

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 not 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

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03	<p><b><i>Greetings in the Name of</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b><i>• God and</i></b></li><li><b><i>• Jesus Christ.</i></b></li></ul> <p><b><i>I bring blessings to all of you, my friends.</i></b></p>
04	<p><b><i>As I have promised, we will have tonight a question and answer session.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>From now on I will be ready to answer also personal questions in these general sessions, my friends, but only those of you who do not come for private sessions should take this opportunity.</i></b></p>

by Eva Broch Pierrakos

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*This is not an imposition for the other listeners.*

*Quite the contrary.*

*If you are ready to ask  
anything personal –  
of course only concerning your*

- spiritual development or*
- psychological difficulties –*

*this will help others  
much more than you can imagine.*

*And rather than taking time away from them  
by asking such questions,  
you will offer a gift to the others,  
while you benefit at the same time.*

*So, whoever is ready will be welcome.*

*And now, my friends,  
I am ready for your questions.*

05

**QUESTION:**  
*I understand how  
the fallen spirits,  
through their longings,  
created for themselves  
the earth.*

*But I do not understand  
why it was necessary  
to*

- move to a physical planet and*
- have such a very*
  - physical and*
  - material*

*life  
in order to achieve this.*

06

**ANSWER:**

***In the first place,  
"physical"  
is merely an indication of  
the degree of density.***

***Human beings  
often make the mistake in thinking  
that, for instance,  
• the world of darkness is  
not physical or  
that  
• the spiritual matter there  
is of radiant matter.***

***In fact,  
the substance there [i.e., the substance in the world of darkness]  
is much denser  
than  
your physical substance [on earth].***

***It [i.e., the substance in the world of darkness]  
is so dense  
that it too  
becomes  
• invisible and  
• untouchable  
for your degree of density [on earth].***

***The whole scale of  
matter existing in the universe  
is in  
various degrees  
• dense  
or  
• subtle.***

***The lowest [scale of matter existing in the universe]  
is of the  
• thickest or  
• heaviest or  
• densest  
degree.***

*The higher  
the development,  
• the more radiant or  
• the finer  
the degree [of the substance in the universe]  
becomes.*

*While  
the more highly developed beings  
can  
• see and  
• feel  
not only  
their own  
substance,  
according to their development,  
but can also  
• see and  
• touch  
the substance of  
lower levels,  
the lower spirits  
cannot do so.*

*They [i.e., the lower spirits]  
are only receptive to  
the substance  
that corresponds to  
their own  
level of development.*

*The same applies to  
• the human being  
or to  
• the physical substance.*

*The lower  
the development,  
the blinder  
the being must be.*

*The earth sphere  
is just a grade in-between.*

*It is a condition  
of the particular development of  
the earth sphere  
that humans  
generally  
cannot see any other substance  
than their very own [substance].*

*The same principle applies  
to all spheres  
lower than the earth sphere,  
but does not apply  
to higher spiritual spheres [i.e. this principle that spirits cannot see any  
other substance other than their own does not apply to  
spiritual spheres higher than the earth sphere].*

07

*One of the  
particular purposes  
of this world of matter  
is that  
on the earth  
you  
are open for influences  
of the  
• higher,  
as well as of the  
• lower  
spheres, and  
you  
• stand, so to speak,  
in the middle and  
• can choose [which spheres – lower or higher – you  
allow to influence you].*

*This [capacity to choose between being influenced by lower or higher spheres]  
gives you  
a much greater chance  
for faster development.*

*At the same time,  
[on earth] you live  
surrounded by  
people of different levels of development,  
which creates  
friction [between you and other people].*

*It is much easier  
to live with people  
of the same spiritual spheres,  
while  
the difference of development  
among different people  
creates*

- *misunderstandings,*
- *blindness,*

*and so on.*

*This very difficulty [of living among people of differing development]  
can be the key  
to faster development,  
because  
you can certainly  
overcome your weaknesses faster  
if they are challenged.*

*And this [i.e. And being challenged]  
they [i.e., your weaknesses]  
are [challenged],  
by the*

- *frictions and*
- *conflicts*

*arising from  
the differences in*

- *outlook and*
- *development.*

*So conditions of this earth sphere,  
with its degree of*

- *density and*
- *circumstances*

*arising from it,  
are certainly  
more difficult [than conditions that are more uniform on other spheres].*

*But therein  
lies the possibility  
of infinitely faster development.*

*Is that clear?*

08

**QUESTION:**  
*Yes, thank you,  
but now I have two questions.*

*One is: Do I understand right that  
because of the special degree of density  
of the world of darkness  
we cannot*

- *see it and*

*we cannot*

- *touch it?*

**ANSWER:**  
*That is right.*

*It [i.e., the world of darkness]  
is  
of an*

- *entirely different caliber,*

*of a*

- *very different substance.*

*It is*

- *not finer than yours,*

*but*

- *thicker.*

*It is so thick  
that you would  
not call it physical anymore.*

09

**QUESTION:**

*The other question is:*

*I believe you said in a lecture once that  
the spirits  
who are in darkness  
actually*

- wince and*
- shrink away and*
- feel physical pain*

*when they come into contact with  
the light of  
higher spirits.*

*You said that  
the lower spirits  
don't see the higher.*

**ANSWER:**

*It is this way:*

*As a rule, they [i.e., the lower spirits]  
cannot see it [i.e., cannot see the light of the higher spirits].*

*As a manifestation  
from the higher worlds,  
at exceptional occasions,  
the higher spirits  
can manifest,  
either in*

- the form of light*

*or in*

- their actual form.*

*If these higher spirits  
do not take certain measures  
to manifest,  
the lower spirits  
will not see them ordinarily.*



***But if such measures  
have been taken [by the higher spirits],  
the lower beings  
will***

- see,***
- feel, or***
- perceive***

***in some way  
the higher beings.***

***The same applies to your world.***

***You [on earth] may see***

- a materialization or***
- other sights,***

***if the spirit world***

- fulfills the requirements and***
- wishes to give such a sign.***

***But ordinarily  
you [on earth]  
will not see it [i.e., will not see the light of a higher being].***

***So if this light [of a higher being]  
then manifests to  
those spirits in darkness,  
it creates a***

- pain or***
- discomfort of some kind,***

***again***  
***according to their***

- development, or***
- lack of it.***

***Is that clear? {Yes, thank you.}***

10	<p><b>QUESTION:</b> <i>You said last time that due to the longing of the fallen spirits, gradually this earth sphere came into existence.</i></p> <p><i>I always thought</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>God</i> created the world –</li><li>• <i>not the lower spirits.</i></li></ul>
11	<p><b>ANSWER:</b> <i>In the first place, I purposely said that this earth came into existence not only due to the longing of</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>the fallen spirits,</i></li><li><i>but also due to the longing of</i></li><li>• <i>the higher spirits</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>who have remained faithful to God and</i></li><li>• <i>whose longing</i> was directed to the salvation of their fallen brothers and sisters.</li></ul></li></ul> <p><i>Their [i.e., the higher spirits'] longing also helped to create this world.</i></p> <p><i>But this will still not answer your question quite satisfactorily.</i></p> <p><i>Whether</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>God</i> created this world</li></ul> <p><i>or</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>the longing of the spirits –</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>the fallen ones,</i> as well as</li><li>• <i>the pure ones –</i></li></ul></li></ul> <p><i>is one and the same thing, my dear.</i></p>

*God creates often  
through*

- *His children,*

*through*

- *His spirits,*

*through*

- *His laws.*

*The spirits  
cannot create  
anything,  
unless  
they are given  
the power  
I was speaking of lately,  
the power  
that can be used*

- *for good*

*or*

- *for evil.*

*This*

- *creative power,*

*this*

- *life force,*
  - *can be directed into  
any channel and*
  - *can create therefore  
worlds of*
    - *beauty and*
    - *harmony*

*or*

- *worlds of*
  - *ugliness and*
  - *pain.*

*You  
create worlds*

- *all the time,*
- *every day and*
- *every hour,*
  - *as you know and*
  - *as I have repeatedly said.*

*You create  
spiritual worlds.*

*You do that [i.e., you create spiritual worlds]  
automatically,  
because  
the law works in this way.*

*Therefore,  
God creates  
through*

- His power  
which He has given  
to His children  
to use to a wide extent and*

*through*

- His law  
that makes this [creation through His children]  
possible.*

12

*This*

- material  
world*
  - was, and*
  - still is being  
created*

*in the same way as*

- many other spiritual  
worlds.*

*The coming into existence  
of this earth  
was the expression  
of*

- *the attitude,*

*of*

- *the longing,*

*of*

- *everything that*
  - *was and*
  - *is*

*part of the personalities involved,*

- *the higher as [well as]*
- *the lower*

*ones [i.e., the higher as well as the lower parts  
of the personalities involved].*

*The spiritual worlds  
are nothing else but  
the expression of  
their [i.e., the expression of the involved personalities']*

- *attitudes,*

*their*

- *mentality,*

*their*

- *longing,*

*their*

- *goals,*

*their*

- *feelings,*

*their*

- *deeds and*
- *thoughts.*

*Is that clear?*

13

**QUESTION:**  
*Is it, so to speak,  
a co-creation?*

**ANSWER:**  
*No, I would not say  
a co-creation.*

*You might call it that,  
but it is not entirely correct,  
it [the idea of "co-creation"]  
will give a false idea.*

*Co-creation  
would mean that  
God actually went ahead and  
created Himself  
this world,  
while the other spirits [merely]  
• helped [God] and [thereby]  
• participated  
in the creation.*

*It is not that way.*

*God created  
• His laws of the universe.*

*He created  
• His children.*

*He created  
• various  
• powers and  
• strengths and  
• forces  
and He distributed them  
in such a way  
that  
all living spirits  
can use this power  
in free choice.*

*Part of the  
expression  
of this power [through the free choice of all living spirits involved]  
are the various  
• worlds or  
• spheres  
coming into existence.*

14

**QUESTION:**

*Yes, I understand that.*

*But there is something else.*

*You said that*

*at that time [i.e., the time when the earth was created]*

*they [i.e., the created spirits]*

*were not so far developed*

*that they would produce*

*only*

*spheres of light.*

*When I read that, I thought,*

*is anybody*

*now [i.e., today, after the time of the initial creation of the earth,]*

*able to produce*

*only*

*spheres of light?*

15

**ANSWER:**

*Well, there are people*

*now*

*on this earth*

*who belonged once*

*to the*

*• light and*

*• partly, let us say, medium*

*spheres,*

*but not*

*• dark*

*spheres*

*anymore.*

*At that time [i.e., at the time when the earth was initially created],*

*this ability to produce*

*only*

*spheres of light*

*did not exist,*

*unless you take*

*the pure*

*incarnated spirits.*

*And that was the exact reason  
why  
pure spirits  
were incarnated [on earth] at intervals,  
so that  
a communication  
with the spirit world of God  
could be established,  
for which  
it is necessary  
that the beings in question [i.e., that the beings able to  
communicate with the world of God]  
do not produce spheres of*

- ugliness and*
- darkness*

*anymore,  
but have,  
at least to some degree,  
spheres of*

- light and*
- harmony*

*of their own.*

*At that time [i.e., at that time when the earth was first created],  
there were very few  
of the fallen spirits  
who had  
any  
light spheres.*

*The best they could do  
was to have –  
again I use this word –  
medium spheres.*

*Of course,  
all this is so relative.*

*{Yes, thank you.}*



16	<p><b>QUESTION:</b> <i>How come that for the satanic power the name Lucifer, which means light-bringer, was given?</i></p> <p><i>Where is its scriptural origin?</i></p>
17	<p><b>ANSWER:</b> <i>The name Lucifer was not given to this spirit after he became what you call Satan.</i></p> <p><i>That [i.e., the name Lucifer] was his name when he was created as a spirit of light.</i></p> <p><i>And as you know,</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Lucifer</i></li></ul> <p><i>came after</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Christ.</i></li></ul> <p><i>He [i.e., Lucifer] was a</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>marvelous and</i></li><li>• <i>beautiful</i></li></ul> <p><i>spirit – the bringer of light.</i></p> <p><i>That name [i.e., Lucifer] originates from that time [i.e., the time before the Fall of the Angels].</i></p>

*Where you can find it in the Scriptures  
is a question  
I am not entitled to answer,  
because, as you know,  
a spirit does not have the right  
to answer questions  
you could find out by your own endeavors.*

*But let me say this to you:*

*Lucifer  
was not mentioned particularly by name  
in*

- the Scriptures or*

*in*

- some of the so-called Gnostic literature*

*for the same reason that  
a number of religions  
do not refer to*

- the Fall and*
- Creation and*
- the Plan of Salvation*

*as the Christian religion does.*

*I have explained this already.*

*If you wish,  
I can answer it again,  
tonight or at another time.*

*And perhaps you will then  
understand it better.*

*But there are also  
a great number of seers  
who have*

- brought this knowledge and*
- put it into*
  - books and*
  - literature.*

*In other words,  
people who are open*

- *for this type of knowledge,*
- *for this explanation*
  - *of the Creation and*
  - *of the spiritual facts,*

*are able to receive this enlightenment.*

*And others,  
whose different personalities  
follow trends of another direction,  
may receive*

- *great and*
- *wonderful*

*enlightenment*

- *in other ways,*
- *concerning different facets of spiritual truth.*

18

**QUESTION:**  
*Are the*

- *god*

*and*

- *goddess*
  - *Shiva*

*and*

- *Kali*

*in any way  
connected with Lucifer?*

**ANSWER:**  
*That is*  
*a different variation.*  
*They certainly*  
*represent*  
*evil.*  
*They may*  
*not represent*  
*Lucifer himself,*  
*but*  
*the evil forces.*  
  
*So there is a part of that.*

19

**QUESTION:**

**Has**  
**Lucifer**  
**been incarnated [on earth]**  
**as**  
**• Christ**  
**was [incarnated on earth]?**

**ANSWER:**

**No, my friends,**  
**how could he?**

**Before you can be incarnated [on earth],**  
**you have to have reached**  
**a certain development.**

**There are**  
**many, many, many**  
**other spirits,**  
**• who have**  
**not fallen**  
**as deeply as Lucifer,**  
**• who are**  
**not ready for incarnation either.**

**And much time will have to elapse**  
**before they can incarnate.**

**The worst criminals on this earth**  
**must have already**  
**some sense for good,**  
**somewhere inside them.**

**For otherwise**  
**they could not be human.**

**They would not**  
**be ready for**  
**incarnation.**

*Lucifer  
must be the very last to incarnate,  
in theory.*

*In practice, of course,  
since he would be the last,  
his development*

- will proceed in a different way as the others and*
- will not go through this form of human incarnation.*

*If he would be  
the only man living on earth,  
there would be no point to it.*

*And he must, perforce,  
be the last.*

*The first  
will be the last!*

*And he was  
the first to fall,  
so he must be  
the last to come back.*

*And he will be  
the last to come back,  
because  
he is farthest away from God  
in his attitude.*

*So if it were logical  
for him to be incarnated at all,  
he would be the last one.*

*But since there would be  
no purpose  
for such an incarnation,  
his development  
will proceed differently.*

20

**QUESTION:**

*Is it true that*

*during World War II*

*there was*

- *a danger point [i.e., danger of Luciferic forces defeating Christ's forces]*

*also*

*in the battle of the heavens,*

*parallel to*

- *the height of power of Hitler [i.e., the danger point of Hitler taking over the world]*

*before the Russian debacle?*

**ANSWER:**

*Oh, no my friends!*

*Oh no!*

*You see,*

*if there was still a danger point on that score,*

*the salvation through Christ*

*would make no sense.*

- *Since that war*

*between*

- *Christ*

*and*

- *Lucifer, and*

- *since*

*the salvation [i.e., since Christ's completion of His role in the Plan of Salvation]*

*everything*

- *is established and*

- *runs according to plan.*

*The free will*

*of the individual*

*plays a role in it;*

*there is always enough leeway left*

*for that [i.e., enough leeway for the individual's free will],*

*in both directions [i.e., in either good or evil directions].*

	<p><i>Nevertheless,</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>up to a certain point of development,</i></li><li>• <i>until they have found</i> <i>a certain spiritual light</i> <i>in an overall development,</i></li></ul> <p><i>collectively,</i> <i>people will have wars</i> <i>on your earth.</i></p> <p><i>In principle,</i> <i>from a spiritual point of view,</i> <i>the last wars</i> <i>were no worse than</i> <i>the wars you had hundreds and thousands of years ago,</i> <i>because</i> <i>it is</i> <i>not a question of</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>how many people are killed.</i></li></ul> <p><i>The question is</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>the motive.</i></li></ul> <p><i>And the motives</i> <i>have certainly purified</i> <i>in the latest wars,</i> <i>not only</i> <i>the very last.</i></p>
21	<p><i>With that</i> <i>I do</i> <i>not mean to say that</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>one side</i> <i>is always entirely right and</i></li><li>• <i>the other</i> <i>is entirely wrong.</i></li></ul> <p><i>There is always</i> <i>some wrong</i> <i>on both sides,</i> <i>certainly.</i></p>

*In recent times,  
when people make war,  
they may be  
mistaken in their ideologies,  
but at least  
there is always  
some ideology  
behind it,  
even if  
there are some  
ruthless people  
who are completely selfish.*

*The majority of the people  
follow*

- *some cause,*
- *some idea,*

*while in former times  
they had to go to war  
like sheep.*

*Their rulers  
forced them  
and they had  
absolutely no idea why.*

*It was just the thing to do.*

*Then*

- *the more  
you killed,*
- *the greater  
a hero you were.*

*The rulers  
simply had their own advantages  
as their goals –*

- *to get more land,*
- *to get more power.*



*Though people  
seem to be that way now too,  
even the most ruthless ones [i.e., the most ruthless rulers]  
have deep convictions about  
their own*

- *ideas and*
- *ideals,*

*wrong as they may be in themselves.*

*If they [i.e., If rulers] were  
completely ruthless,  
today  
they*

- *could not get away with this anymore and*
- *could never induce  
whole nations  
to kill each other  
for their selfish interests.*

*Deep down they [i.e., the rulers]*

- *know and*
- *sense  
this.*

*There are some people  
who claim that  
the old way  
is still the case today,  
but they are  
entirely mistaken.*

22

*From the spiritual point of view,  
the question is  
not*

- *how bloody a war is,*
- *how effective your weapons are.*

*From our angle,  
what matters  
is the motive.*

*Even if you are mistaken,  
if your motive  
has some vestiges of decency,  
it is far better than  
what happened in former times.*

*It is true that*  

- *a sincere*
- *but mistaken*

*motive to go to war  
will not save you  
from the consequences,  
because  
ignorance  
does not alter  
the law of*  

- *cause*
- and
- *effect.*

*But what is absolutely true  
is that*  

- *the sincere,*
- *though false*

*motive  
is not evaluated in the same way  
as the  
purely*  

- *selfish and*
- *wicked*

*one –  
and therefore  
this  
must also  
eventually  
have an effect.*

*This alone  
should be an answer  
to people who claim there is  
no advance in spiritual development.*

*For there is!*

*And this [progress in motives for war] is one of the many proofs.*

23

*But people will reach  
eventually –  
and it is to be hoped that this will happen  
in the not too faraway future –  
an understanding  
that war  
can never be a solution.*

*There*  
• was  
*and*  
• is  
• *spiritual progress,*  
*but not measured by*  
• *technical progress.*

*The mere fact  
that*  
• *technical and*  
• *material*  
*progress*  
*has been going on so fast  
in comparison to*  
• *spiritual*  
*progress*  
*will force people  
to come to*  
• *this conclusion and*  
• *this enlightenment.*

*As long as  
people*  
• *do not fight their lower selves*  
*and thus*  
• *become enslaved*  
• *to them [i.e., enslaved to their lower selves] and*  
• *to the powers of darkness,*  
*the outer expression  
of this state will be,*  
*among other things,*  
*war.*

	<p><i>But</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>when</i> <i>this fight in</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>individual and</i></li><li>• <i>personal</i></li></ul><i>development</i> <i>will have reached a certain stage,</i></li><li>• <i>when</i> <i>people have reached</i> <i>a step nearer to God</i> <i>in a certain definite way,</i></li></ul> <p><i>wars</i> <i>will not be possible anymore.</i></p>
24	<p><i>If only</i> <i>a certain percentage of</i> <i>human beings –</i> <i>by no means</i> <i>even half of the world population,</i> <i>but only a small part,</i> <i>one tenth,</i> <i>and perhaps not even that –</i> <i>would really follow</i> <i>the spiritual</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>development and</i></li><li>• <i>purification</i></li></ul><i>I advocate,</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>overcoming</i> <i>their own lower trends,</i></li><li>• <i>recognizing in self-honesty</i> <i>their own lower nature,</i></li></ul><i>and thus</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>finishing the war</i> <i>that is raging</i> <i>in almost every human soul,</i></li></ul><p><i>the outpouring of energy forms</i> <i>in the form of warfare</i> <i>will cease to exist.</i></p></p>

25

*There is hardly a person,  
even in this room,  
in whom*

- *a war  
is not going on inside,*
- *a war*
  - *that is not recognized as yet,*
  - *where*
    - *one trend of the subconscious  
wants to go this way, and*
    - *the other [trend of the subconscious]  
that way.*

*And your consciousness  
does not know it.*

*This*

*creates wars on this earth –  
your unrecognized*

- *hatred,*

*your unrecognized*

- *selfishness,*

*your unrecognized*

- *lack of love,  
and so on.*

*Once you control this –*

*it does not mean  
you have to be  
completely purified,  
but*

- *you control it,*
- *you are aware of it –  
even if  
only less than one-tenth  
of the entire human population  
will reach that stage,*

*I assure you,  
war  
will be impossible.*

*But to say that this war  
was created  
because of the war of the spirits  
cannot possibly be right.*

26

**QUESTION:**

*Are we to understand*

- *that it does not matter so much  
how many people are killed and*
- *that this [i.e., that many people being killed] is not regrettable?*

**ANSWER:**

*My dear,*

*this depends entirely on*

- *the way  
you look at it,*
- *from what point of view [you look at it].*

*As far as you human beings are concerned,  
you should be*

- very responsible,  
not only*
- *about the life of your fellow-creatures,*
- but also*
- *their well-being.*

*It is  
your  
personal responsibility.*

*So certainly,  
you should  
never  
adopt the point of view  
that  
what happens to others  
does not matter.*

*This distortion  
may serve people's  
lowest instincts.*

*It is your  
sacred duty,  
just as it [just as your sacred duty] is*

- *to do your best*
- *for your own development,*
- *for your own life,*

*also*

- *to be concerned with  
the life of every other person.*

*In some way  
you are bound to*

- *everyone else,*

*even*

- *your worst enemy.*

*That person [i.e., your worst enemy]  
is you  
and  
you  
are that person [i.e., you are your worst enemy].*

*But  
from the spiritual point of view,  
the question  
how many people were killed in a war  
is not  
the important matter.*

*There [i.e., from the spiritual point of view],  
the important matter is*

- *what the motive is,*
- *how the spiritual attitudes  
of everyone involved  
look to us.*

*Also,  
you must not forget  
that the clockwork of the laws  
is so perfect  
that nothing unjust  
can come  
to any single individual.*

*But that does  
not mean  
that you are free*

- *to commit sins,*
- *to be careless about  
the lives of others  
by leaning heavily on  
the fact  
that no injustice can happen  
to anyone anyway.*

*You cannot  
do injustice  
to another being,  
  
but you can  
harm yourself  
by violating  
the laws of love.*

27

**QUESTION:**  
*Are some of the occult teachings true  
that there is an  
Antichrist  
incarnated now?*

**ANSWER:**  
*Oh no,  
oh no!*

*Definitely not,  
if by this is meant  
one particular Antichrist.*

*Of course,  
all spirits*

- who come from  
the world of darkness and*
- who are still  
entrapped in that darkness,*

*are all  
Antichrists.*

*Everyone  
who does not see  
the light of*

- God and*
- the light of*
- Christ and*
- the light of*
- goodness,*
- love and*
- truth*

*is an Antichrist.*



***In that sense,  
yes [the Antichrist is incarnated now].***

***They [i.e., all those who do not see the light of God, of Christ, of goodness]  
are still that [i.e., are still the Antichrist],  
but they will not always be.***

***They may be  
instruments,  
• consciously or  
• unconsciously,  
of the world of darkness.***

***But there is no  
• particular,  
• single,  
incarnation  
representing the Antichrist.***

28

***QUESTION:  
So the idea that existed for a time  
that Hitler  
was the Antichrist  
is wrong.***

***ANSWER:  
It is  
entirely wrong.***

***Hitler  
came from  
the world of darkness.***

***That is quite true.***

***But,  
particularly in the case of Hitler,  
the chances were  
that he could have done well in this life.***

*Before he was incarnated,  
he was in a certain school  
in the spirit world.*

*He had,  
through previous incarnations,  
deserved certain merits  
and  
even though he was still  
very much connected with  
the world of darkness,  
these merits warranted  
that he be given  
certain instructions.*

*Before he came to earth,  
he was told that he would,  
by a conglomeration of many circumstances  
that all play into the divine laws,  
be given great power  
and it would be  
according to his free will  
how he would use this power.*

*He even had  
a great deal of  
psychic power.*

*Up to a certain point,  
the chances were there  
that he might have used these powers  
in a good way.*

*That may surprise you.*

*I do not mean by that  
that he could have become*

- a savior,*
- a saint, or*
- anything like that.*

*Of course not.*

	<p><b>He was</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><i>much too bound</i></b> <b><i>to the world of darkness for that [i.e., for becoming a savior or saint],</i></b></li><li>• <b><i>not enough developed by far.</i></b></li></ul> <p><b>But</b> <b><i>he could have gained some progress</i></b> <b><i>in his spiritual development.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>He could have overcome</i></b> <b><i>some of the darkness</i></b> <b><i>that was still in his soul.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>And he could have done</i></b> <b><i>some good.</i></b></p>
29	<p><b>Yet,</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><i>he was weak and</i></b></li><li>• <b><i>he did not take this chance [for spiritual development].</i></b></li></ul> <p><b>He used his powers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><i>first only</i></b></li><li>• <b><i>a little,</i></b></li><li>• <b><i>unwittingly,</i></b></li><li>• <b><i>and then</i></b></li><li>• <b><i>more and more</i></b> <b><i>for the powers of darkness.</i></b></li></ul> <p><b>But</b> <b><i>that [i.e., but using his powers more and more for the powers of darkness]</i></b> <b><i>was not determined</i></b> <b><i>from the beginning.</i></b></p> <p><b>There was a certain time in his life,</b> <b><i>in his youth –</i></b> <b><i>and we can see this picture now –</i></b> <b><i>when he was almost at the point</i></b> <b><i>of going over the borderline [where he could use his powers</i></b> <b><i>for the world of God, for his development, and for good].</i></b></p> <p><b><i>He just did not quite make it.</i></b></p>

	<p><i>And once entangled only a little with the dark powers, he could never muster the strength anymore to disentangle himself from them.</i></p> <p><i>So he was not a Lucifer by any means.</i></p> <p><i>He could not have lived on earth in the first place, if he were anything like it.</i></p> <p><i>And particularly in his case, more than in many of the others that surrounded him, who were much darker spirits, the very strong inclination existed – comparatively speaking –</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• to strive upward,</i></li><li><i>• to reach into the world of God.</i></li></ul> <p><i>If you were to study his life thoroughly, you would find many indications that would confirm my words.</i></p>
30	<p><b>QUESTION:</b> <i>In other words, he was a tragic figure?</i></p> <p><b>ANSWER:</b> <i>Yes, much more tragic than some others.</i></p>
31	<p><b>QUESTION:</b> <i>And with regard to Mussolini?</i></p> <p><b>ANSWER:</b> <i>Mussolini was not quite the same case.</i></p>

*His case was different  
insofar that  
he did not come from  
such a dark sphere as Hitler.*

*But on the other hand,  
he did not have as much of  
the possibility for light  
as Hitler had.*

*His personality  
was more "even,"  
if I might use this expression.*

*There are people –  
and you may encounter them every day,  
and perhaps some of you  
fall into the same category –  
who have  
a very strong inclination  
toward the good,  
but the discrepancy  
between  
good  
and  
evil  
in them  
is much more extreme  
than in others.*

*They are*

- much better  
than some other people,*

*but also, at the same time,*

- much worse.*

*Correspondingly,  
one type of person  
will have some very dark spheres  
as their homes,  
but several spheres of the same type,  
with not too much difference among them,  
belong into  
a world of medium gray.*

*Roughly speaking,  
this is the difference  
between  
• Hitler  
and  
• Mussolini.*

32

**QUESTION:**  
*May I ask in this connection  
about Nostradamus  
who has prophesied  
some of these events?*

*Isn't that impossible to do?*

*Over 400 to 500 years [in the future]?*

**ANSWER:**  
*No.*

*It is not impossible,  
because any great seer –  
and they are never entirely right,  
you will understand why –  
can at times  
be allowed  
to see the plan  
that exists in the spirit world.*

*Or, perhaps,  
due to some particular*

- talent and*
- personal vibration,*

*one can be tuned in,  
so to speak,  
to see  
a part of such a plan.*

*God makes the plan*

- according to*  
*the given circumstances,*
- always within the framework*  
*of the law.*

*But there are  
several  
plans,  
meeting  
all eventualities  
resulting from free will.*

*Either  
one will come true  
or  
another,  
or  
still another,  
varying only slightly  
in the time element  
in certain conditions.*

*But the plans must be*

- made and*
- prepared*  
*for all possible decisions,*  
*resulting from free will.*

*This is an important part  
of the Plan of Salvation.*

	<p><i>We know that a certain number of possibilities are open.</i></p> <p><i>We give leeway for all these possibilities when the time comes, to work from our end.</i></p> <p><i>Now it sometimes happens that a seer sees just one such plan.</i></p> <p><i>If, later, the free will of the individuals involved will have led up to the fulfillment of this plan, the seer was right.</i></p> <p><i>Otherwise, this may account for his mistakes, although other circumstances may also play a role in that [i.e., in the seer's mistakes], such as false interpretation of what was seen.</i></p>
33	<p><b>QUESTION:</b> <i>So the prediction of Nostradamus for the end of this century does not have to come true?</i></p> <p><b>ANSWER:</b> <i>Not necessarily.</i></p>
34	<p><b>QUESTION:</b> <i>That's why I was asking, whether this [prediction] can be avoided.</i></p> <p><b>ANSWER:</b> <i>Certainly.</i></p>



*He [i.e., Nostradamus]  
saw one plan,  
and if the free will of the people  
would work to avoid this particular direction,  
then this would be  
a necessary means  
to a good end.*

*But if free will  
works in any number of  
other directions,  
the plan is modified accordingly,  
fitting the circumstances exactly.*

*All the alternatives  
are prepared beforehand.*

*Nostradamus just saw  
one alternative and  
not the many other possibilities  
according to free will.*

35

**QUESTION:**  
*So seers,  
such as Nostradamus,  
have insight into these records?*

**ANSWER:**  
*Into some of it,  
to a small degree.*

*As I said,  
they may have glimpses of  
one plan  
for one alternative,  
but not  
of the many other possibilities  
arising out of free will.*

*That is why such seers are*

- *sometimes right and*
- *sometimes wrong.*

	<p><i>And do not imagine that such insight is always purposefully given from the spirit world.</i></p> <p><i>This may occasionally be so, but generally this [insight] happens rather as a byproduct of a certain talent of seership where particular wavelengths meet and thus a tuning-in results.</i></p>
36	<p><b>QUESTION:</b> <i>Can deep-seated psychological problems, pertaining to a previous life, be solved by human methods of hypnosis alone or does it need regression [i.e., looking back into a previous life]?</i></p>
37	<p><b>ANSWER:</b> <i>You mean whether certain problems, resulting from a former life, can be solved without becoming aware of them [happening in that former life]? {Yes.}</i></p> <p><i>That depends very much on the case.</i></p>

*There are  
many, many cases  
where the psychological problems  
can be solved*

- *without regression [into previous incarnations],*
- *without the knowledge  
of the particular incarnation involved.*

*But there are instances*

- *where this knowledge [of previous incarnations involved in a problem]  
is an absolutely necessary factor,*
- *where the problem  
can be solved  
thoroughly  
only if  
this knowledge is made available.*

*But these cases  
are in the minority.*

*However,*

*I would like to add this:*

- *Only if  
the person in question  
undergoes the strictest process of*
  - *self-development and*
  - *purification,*
- *only if the*
  - *steepest and*
  - *most direct  
path  
is taken,*
    - *should or*
    - *even can  
such knowledge  
be made available  
without harm.*

*Then [i.e., when the person in question is in the strictest process  
of self-development and taking the steepest path]  
the spirit world of God  
will*

- interfere,*

*will*

- direct, and*
- help*

*with*

- the right timing and*
- the*

- proper and*
- necessary*

*guidance and*

- see to it*

*that not more than  
just certain sectors of knowledge  
are brought back.*

*Otherwise,  
there would be no point  
in taking away your memory  
when you are born on this planet.*

38

*All that you hear today  
about*

- previous incarnations and*
- knowledge that is supposed to be  
so easily available*

*should not be believed, my friends.*

*It [i.e., knowledge about previous incarnations]  
is one of the*

- hardest,*
- most difficult*

*things to accomplish.*

*The world of God  
guards this knowledge  
very carefully.*

*This knowledge [about previous incarnations]  
can never come to you,  
be it*

- *through hypnosis or*
- *through mediumship,*

*without  
the spirit world of God.*

*And the latter [i.e., the spirit world of God]  
will not lend a helping hand  
if there is not  
a very good  
spiritual  
reason.*

*If this knowledge [about previous incarnations]  
serves the purpose  
of further purification,  
then  
without this knowledge [about previous incarnations]  
this*

- *further and*
- *utmost*

*purification  
cannot be accomplished  
quite successfully.*

*It [i.e., knowledge about previous incarnations]  
should not be taken*

- *merely as a cure –*

*let alone*

- *to satisfy personal curiosity.*

*It [i.e., knowledge about previous incarnations]  
must be taken as  
a heavy piece of responsibility.*

***The person should***

- ***think and***
- ***feel***

***somewhat like this:***

***"If I learn certain factors  
about previous lives,  
then I have the duty  
to fulfill***

***even more***

***in***

- ***my own development and***

***in***

- ***what I have to give to God."***

***This knowledge [about previous incarnations]  
must be***

***the material for  
further self-purification –  
nothing less.***

***And before this knowledge [about previous incarnations]  
is made available,***

***this attitude [of greater responsibility for your own development  
and for what you have to give to God]  
has to be proven already,  
at least to some extent.***

***It [i.e., knowledge about previous incarnations]  
will not be made available***

***unless***

***it is proven***

***that the person is following this path [of self-knowledge].***

39

*Now, as to the*

- *technical and*
- *practical*

*procedure*

*with regression [into previous incarnations]  
in hypnosis:*

*Here it is my*

- *very strong and*
- *definite advice*

*that it should never be undertaken  
without*

- *God and*
- *Christ.*

*Both*

- *the subject and*
- *the hypnotist*

*should*

- *feel themselves  
to be instruments and*

*should*

- *surrender to God and*
- *ask for*
  - *guidance and*
  - *inspiration.*

*Otherwise,*

*it [i.e., regression in hypnosis to access knowledge from previous incarnations]  
may be*

*either*

- *fake –  
and thus have  
no meaning whatsoever  
in the life of a person –*

*or even*

- *dangerous.*

*But if it [i.e., regression in hypnosis to access knowledge from earlier incarnations]  
is undertaken in the proper attitude,*

*then*

*the spirit world of God*

- *will help and*
- *will, among other things,  
show the hypnotist how to go about it.*

***There are no definite rules  
that can be applied with everyone  
in the same way.***

***It [i.e., the way to apply regression in hypnosis to access knowledge  
from earlier incarnations]  
depends very much***

- on the case,***
- on the individual.***

***Therefore, it [i.e., regression in hypnosis to access knowledge  
from earlier incarnations]  
has to be done  
differently with everyone.***

***And only the spirits of the world of God  
are in a position  
to see into the soul  
to know***

- how much knowledge  
this person can digest without shock,***
- how***
  - the timing and***
  - the procedure  
should be handled.***

***Only  
the soul  
is capable  
of conducting this operation.***

***It [i.e., the soul]  
can do so  
if the hypnotist  
is open to this***

- guidance and***
- inspiration.***



*Such a hypnotist  
will also have to go through  
a particular training of this sort.*

*This kind of hypnosis [i.e., hypnosis to gain knowledge of previous incarnations]  
must be handled  
entirely differently  
than ordinary hypnosis.*

*And never,  
never,  
should one  
start with  
hypnosis.*

*Only after  
much progress has been achieved  
by other approaches,  
• in psychological problems  
that can be handled  
without such regression,  
• in purification,  
• in uncovering the subconscious trends  
for the purpose of harmony in the soul,*

*only after  
some considerable progress of  
• spiritual development,  
• emotional  
• maturity and  
• stability,*

*only then  
should this treatment [i.e., should regression in hypnosis] be started –  
if God has given the answer, as always,  
in this matter  
just as in others.*

*I would be very happy,  
occasionally,  
to give advice in a more specific form.*

*{Thank you.}*

40	<p><b>QUESTION:</b> <i>You have told us how difficult it is for the spiritual world to prepare a spirit for incarnation in our world.</i></p> <p><i>The fluids have to be changed, and so on, even in the case of a newborn baby that dies after two days.</i></p> <p><i>Why all this work for nothing?</i></p>
41	<p><b>ANSWER:</b> <i>Oh, the work is not for nothing.</i></p> <p><i>The mother has to go through a karma and this little baby will be given to another mother.</i></p> <p><i>{Immediately?}</i></p> <p><i>Certainly.</i></p> <p><i>It will not go back to the spirit world, it will be brought immediately to the mother who was chosen for it in the first place, for, in the spirit world it is known that the first mother has to go through this karma.</i></p>

*This unhappiness [i.e., the death of a newborn baby after only a few days]  
is in her [i.e., is in the mother's] plan  
that she has somehow sown before  
and now she has to reap.*

*It is good for her development  
and she thus  
pays off a debt.*

*You all know  
what the implication of*

- *tests and*
- *unhappy occurrences*

*are.*

*But the work  
is not for nothing,  
for all this is*

- *figured out and*
- *planned*

*beforehand  
and arrangements are made  
before the first birth.*

*And this infant  
is carried to the mother  
it was destined for  
in the first place.*

42

**QUESTION:**  
*Would that hold true  
for an infant that has not developed?*

*Just started?*

*In a miscarriage?*

**ANSWER:**  
*In such a case  
there is no spirit there as yet.*

*The spirit takes possession  
the moment the first cry is uttered.*

43	<p><b>QUESTION:</b> <i>You say –     and I have heard it from others too –     that the spirit     takes possession     only after     the first cry has been uttered.</i></p> <p><i>But it has been known     that in some cases     a person could remember     hearing the parents talking     while it was still in the womb.</i></p>
44	<p><b>ANSWER:</b> <i>I see what you mean.</i></p> <p><i>But that does not mean     that the child was in the womb.</i></p> <p><i>The child     is not in the womb at that time.</i></p> <p><i>It is outside,     a spirit.</i></p> <p><i>Of course,     among human beings     there are these arguments about various matters,     where     one school of thought     claims one thing     and     another     the opposite</i></p> <p><i>and you will never agree.</i></p> <p><i>I will tell you the way it is.</i></p> <p><i>You can believe it or not.</i></p>

*It is not correct  
that the spirit takes over  
at the time of conception.*

*The movement in the womb  
is an automatic one,  
as I have already explained before.*

*It is caused by the bloodstream of the mother  
in order that the limbs will not atrophy.*

*It is necessary,  
but merely a technical procedure, so to say.*

*If such memories occur,  
it may be in rare instances  
that the spirit,  
prepared for birth,  
is awake at short intervals  
and then retains such memories.*

*It may be  
close to the parents in this period.*

*But it is even more likely that  
this baby  
happens to be very*

- psychic,*
- clairvoyant, or*
- clairaudient.*

*After birth it can perceive –  
and remember –  
certain forms.*

*You know that  
thoughts  
create  
forms  
in the spirit world  
and the child  
perceives them afterward.*

*It may also be that  
other spirits  
repeat the same words after birth  
and the child can*

- hear and*
- remember*

*them.*

*Such incidents*

- may happen and*
- are allowed to happen occasionally*

*to show to humans  
that life  
does not originate  
on this earth plane.*

*But then,  
people often misinterpret this  
in another  
wrong way,  
namely, like in this instance,  
that this is memory  
from the time the child  
was in the womb.*

*Humankind  
ignores  
the many*

- complicated and*
- involved*

*possibilities with these things.*

45

**QUESTION:**  
*I would like to ask something about  
the idea of Ahriman [Note: Ahriman is the evil spirit  
in the dualistic doctrine of Zoroastrianism].*

**ANSWER:**  
*I have answered that already some time ago.*

*All you would have to do is look it up.*

*Briefly, I will just repeat  
that this [i.e. Ahriman]  
is also a spirit*

- *who had once  
very high standing  
in the world of God and*
- *who also participated in the Fall.*

*Lucifer has given this spirit  
the authority  
for*

- *this earth sphere,*

*for*

- *the world of matter,*

*for*

- *this particular substance.*

*As much power as this spirit has,  
he is still  
a part of  
the Luciferic world.*

*To deny this is a great error.*

46

**QUESTION:**  
*May I ask,  
in connection with the discussion on  
the "Pistis Sophia" ["The Wisdom of the Savior", a second-century  
Gnostic document].*

*whether  
after*

- *giving excerpts and*
- *covering the material*

*in about five or six sessions,  
can we then ask you some questions  
in the subsequent meeting?*

**ANSWER:**  
*I would even suggest that it is perfectly all right  
not to wait until the end of the series,  
but ask me in our next meeting.*

	<p><i>This will be better, because it will enable you to get deeper understanding of what you will read and discuss afterward.</i></p>
47	<p><b>QUESTION:</b> <i>Could you please explain what Jesus meant when he said to Peter, "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it; And I will give thee the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and whatever thou shalt loose on earth shall be bound [sic -- loosed] in Heaven." (Matthew 16: 18-20).</i></p>
48	<p><b>ANSWER:</b> <i>The meaning is this: Jesus entrusted Peter with His teachings, that he might organize the spreading of His teachings.</i></p> <p><i>Now it is a well-known fact that the Catholic Church builds on the belief that from that time on everything is so settled that nothing this Church says could be wrong – based on the saying you quoted.</i></p> <p><i>And here, I do want to explain this:</i></p> <p><i>What Jesus meant was that Peter should spread the teachings exactly as He has brought them.</i></p>



*But that definitely included  
a communication with  
the spirit world of God.*

*This communication [with the spirit world of God]  
existed very actively at that time,  
the time of the first Christians.*

*Jesus was much too wise  
to suggest that  
any truth  
could be kept undiluted  
by spreading  
from*

- one human being  
to another,*

*from*

- one generation  
to another.*

*He knew that  
human failings  
are still much too great  
not to let*

- errors and*
- false interpretations  
slip in –*

*not to speak of  
the danger of  
the twisting of truth*

- the world of darkness  
has always aimed for and*
- which  
will succeed  
as long as  
there are unpurified beings  
on this earth.*

*Therefore,  
direct communication  
with the World of God  
is the only way possible [to keep the teachings ever true].*

49

*Unfortunately,  
human beings have,  
sometimes*  

- *ignorantly,*

*sometimes*  

- *deliberately,*

*misinterpreted these words [of Jesus to Peter] –  
as they have many others, for that matter.*

*If these words  
had been taken in their true sense,  
exactly as*  

- *Jesus had taught*

*and as*  

- *Peter had meant then,*

*which included  
such a communication  
with the world of God,*  
*many things  
would have been  
very different  
in your human history.*

*I know  
this will shock some friends,  
but I cannot help it.*

*This is the truth.*

*And if you  
read the Bible  
with true*  

- *understanding and*
- *openness,*

*you will find  
many, many instances  
where the sayings of Jesus  
cannot be interpreted  
in any other way [i.e., a way other than including an ongoing  
direct communication with the world of God].*

*As a matter of fact,  
you will see now,  
particularly from the lectures, my friend,  
that this is so.*

*You have  
one demonstration there  
that Jesus always meant you  
to contact His spirits of truth.*

*It [i.e., contacting the world of God, Jesus' spirits of truth]  
was part of Jesus' teachings  
that Peter was supposed to spread.*

*And also –  
which was not published,  
or later taken out –*

- how to go about it,*
- what the laws are*

*to have communication with  
the spirits of*

- light and*
- truth.*

*And when it was said  
that Jesus appeared to his disciples after His death,  
it was also a form of communication.*

*There are many different forms [of communication].*

*Later on  
Jesus would not appear Himself anymore,  
but send His emissaries.*

*And when He said  
before His death,*

*"There are many things I cannot tell you as yet,  
but will tell you later,"*

*how do you imagine He could tell that,  
unless through such a communication  
for which*

- certain laws have to be obeyed and*
- certain conditions prepared?*

*This [i.e., how to communicate with the world of God, with  
the spirits of light and truth]  
was an integral part of His teachings  
that was,  
unfortunately,  
for various reasons,  
• not maintained or  
• even distorted.*

*Furthermore,  
this quotation means  
that anyone –  
• then or  
• now –  
who binds himself to God  
through adhering to  
the teachings of Jesus  
that Peter was to  
• maintain,  
• spread and  
• organize,  
would also  
be bound to the Father  
in the Kingdom of Heaven and  
could never be lost anymore.*

*But anyone  
who  
• refuses these teachings and  
• loosens himself thus further from God,  
will also be lost after death –  
not forever,  
but for as long as this attitude prevails.*

50

*This inner declaration  
to  
• put God above everything else and  
• follow His will  
in every respect  
marks a decisive step  
in the development of a soul –  
sometimes this is called an "initiation."*

***This is the meaning of it [i.e., the meaning of this statement of Jesus to Peter]  
in its essence,  
and certainly  
not***

***that***

- ***God and***
- ***Christ***

***would only manifest  
through one human church-organization  
which alone  
should be immune***

- ***to human failings***
- and thus***
- ***to the influence of the powers of darkness.***

***This would make no sense.***

***Whoever***

- ***follows the real teachings of Christ and***
- ***seeks the***
  - ***development and***
  - ***purification******through which***  
***it is possible to hold the laws of God***
- ***is indeed immune to all evil –***  
***"Hell will not prevail" – and***
- ***will thus gain***  
***the Kingdom of Heaven.***

***But that [i.e., following the real teachings of Christ and seeking  
development and purification]  
is the only way that this [i.e., that gaining the Kingdom of Heaven]  
can happen,  
the only way,  
my friends!***

***And I believe that this  
must make sense to you.***

51

*And now, my friends,  
I will retire into my world,  
and I am leaving you  
with a particular blessing  
for each one of you.*

*May it give you  
the strength to*

- *find yourself truly*

*and thus*

- *live in*
  - *bliss and*
  - *joy!*

*Be joyful,  
for whoever is seeking God  
through his own*

- *good and*
- *sincere*

*will,  
has all the reason in the world  
to have joy  
in his heart.*

*Be in peace.*

*Be in God!*

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