

# Pathwork Lecture 29: The Forces of Activity and Passivity – Finding God’s Will

1996 Edition, Original Given May 9, 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

¶	Content
03	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Greetings</i></b> <b><i>in the name of</i></b> <b><i>the Lord.</i></b> <b><i>I bring blessings</i></b> <b><i>for all of you,</i></b> <b><i>my friends.</i></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Blessed</i></b> <b><i>is this hour [i.e., blessed is this time</i></b> <b><i>we now spend together in this lecture].</i></b></p>
04	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>There are</i></b> <b><i>twelve basic</i></b> <b><i>• active</i></b> <b><i>• forces and</i></b> <b><i>twelve basic</i></b> <b><i>• passive</i></b> <b><i>• forces or</i></b> <b><i>• principles</i></b> <b><i>in the universe.</i></b></p>

by Eva Broch Pierrakos

© 1996 The Pathwork® Foundation (1996 Edition)

Edited by Judith and John Saly; Devotional Version posted 1/2/16

*According to  
the scheme of the  
"Pistis Sophia,"  
these [twelve active and twelve passive] forces  
are*

- concentrated in  
the highest realm of light and*
  - conducted by  
respective entities  
who are each*
    - a representative or*
    - a personification  
of each of these*
      - active and*
      - passive*
- principles.*

*They [i.e., these forces and their respective entities]  
are all  
perfect  
in their own way.*

*The whole universe  
is penetrated  
by these forces and  
an infinite*

- variety and*
- combination*

*of them [i.e., an infinite variety and combination of these forces]  
is possible.*

*In the "Pistis Sophia"  
the expression  
"twenty-four invisibles"  
refers to*

- the principles [or forces]*

*as well as to*

- the [respective] entities.*

***They [i.e., the “twenty-four invisibles”]  
are invisible  
in all spheres  
below  
the highest realm of light.***

***But in the latter sphere [i.e., in the sphere of the highest realm of light],  
the  
• principles or  
• forces  
as well as  
• their personified entities  
are visible  
in the form of  
• rays or  
• fine threads  
running through the atmosphere.***

***They [i.e., the principles or forces and their personified entities]  
are noticeable  
not only by various  
• colors and  
• shades,  
but also by  
• scent and  
• tone and  
• other qualities  
that are unknown  
to human sense-perception.***

05

***I am telling you about this  
not merely  
to give you information about the higher spheres,  
for that  
in itself  
would not be sufficient reason [for telling you about the higher spheres],  
interesting as this knowledge may be.***

***You should always  
get some practical benefit out of these lectures  
for use in your actual life,  
right here and now.***

	<p><i>Since</i> every • <i>force or</i> • <i>principle</i> <i>present in the universe</i> also penetrates each individual human soul, you will see that a benefit can be derived from this seemingly abstract piece of information.</p> <p><i>In other words,</i> a personal connection • <i>can and</i> • <i>should</i> be made, for the whole universe is within you.</p>
06	<p><i>How human beings</i> • <i>exploit and</i> • <i>direct</i> these • <i>principles or</i> • <i>forces</i> determines their • <i>lives,</i> their • <i>harmony, and</i> their • <i>happiness.</i></p> <p><i>I have often mentioned that</i> • <i>activity and</i> • <i>passivity</i> are two basic divine aspects in the universe.</p>

*Now*  
*you can see*  
*that there is*  
*not just*  
*• one active*  
*and*  
*• one passive*  
*principle*  
*in existence,*  
*but*  
*• twelve*  
*of each [i.e. twelve active principles and twelve*  
*passive principles].*

*For humanity*  
*the question arises*  
*when to assume an*  
*• active*  
*and*  
*when a*  
*• passive*  
*attitude?*

*When should you use*  
*the free will*  
*you have been endowed with,*  
*which corresponds to*  
*activity,*  
*and when should*  
*free will*  
*not be exercised –*  
*which is a state corresponding to*  
*passivity –*  
*so that*  
*God's will*  
*can be fulfilled?*

*It is in these terms*  
*that you think about*  
*the matter [i.e., think about the matter of free will, activity and passivity],*  
*but herein lies*  
*a fundamental error,*  
*my friends.*

	<p><i>For it is not in the least true that you can be passive when you want to fulfill God's will.</i></p> <p><i>In order to truly fulfill the will of God you need a great deal of</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• activity and</i></li><li><i>• willpower.</i></li></ul>
07	<p><i>When the active forces are used in the channels destined for the passive currents, a congestion occurs, and the result is frustration for the human being.</i></p>

*If  
the passive forces  
replace  
the active ones,  
entering the channels  
where the active principle  
should*

- *work and*
- *flow freely,*

*there will*

- *not be congestion [as occurs when the active forces enter channels  
destined for passive forces],*

*but rather a*

- *standstill or*
- *stagnation,*

*not only in*

- *general development,  
which, of course,  
the wrong use of  
the active forces brings about too,*

*but a sluggishness in*

- *particular aspects  
of the human soul,*

*and gradually*  
*it [i.e., passive forces entering the channels destined for the active forces]  
will affect  
the entire inner makeup of the person.*

08

*Any person on the path  
has a great need to find out  
in what respect  
the forces  
should be*

- *active*
- or*
- *passive.*

*I will try to shed light on this subject.*

*My words will also help you  
to understand that  
passivity  
is not necessary  
to fulfill the will of God.*

*You should  
at all times*

- be active and*
- use your willpower –  
which does  
not mean self-will,  
for these [i.e. willpower and self-will]  
are two different things –*

*to adhere to  
the laws of God,  
which you know.*

*And that [i.e., the laws of God relevant to a given situation]  
is not so difficult to find out,  
even for people  
who do not receive*

- these particular teachings and*
- personal guidance.*



**People**

- **who find God**  
**in any of the current existing**
  - **religions or**
  - **philosophies and**

**people**

- **who are not particularly close to God,**
- **who may be**
  - **agnostics or**
  - **even atheists,**
- **but who have**  
**high standards of**
  - **ethics and**
  - **morals,**

**do know**

- what is**
  - **right**

**and**

- what is**
  - **wrong**

**if they simply**

- **face the particular issue and**
- **ask themselves**
  - **honest and**
  - **self-probing**  
**questions.**

**Then [i.e., if they face the particular issue and ask themselves  
the necessary honest and self-probing questions]  
they will know [what is right and what is wrong].**

**In order to do**

**just that [i.e., in order to just face the particular issue and ask  
yourself the necessary honest and self-probing questions in  
order to discern what is right and then do the right],**

**you certainly do need  
your willpower.**

09	<p><i>However,</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>where the passive forces should hold sway, and</i></li><li>• <i>where they are unfortunately often replaced by your active forces,</i></li></ul> <p><i>are all the instances in which you cannot change</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>circumstances or</i></li><li>• <i>other people.</i></li></ul> <p><i>People are inclined to revolt inwardly</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>when things do not go according to their will and</i></li><li>• <i>when other people are wrong.</i></li></ul> <p><i>Then [i.e., when people are inwardly revolting because things do not go according to their will and because other people are wrong] an active movement begins to take the place of passivity.</i></p>
10	<p><i>Whenever an emotion is felt and you follow that emotion through to its roots, you will discover that a desire is behind it.</i></p> <p><i>Desire means activity.</i></p>

*You may have  
right desires:*

- *going on a path of purification, for example, or*
- *learning to love*  
*are such.*

- *Overcoming your weaknesses, or*
- *wanting to be honest with yourself,*  
*which causes pain at first,*  
*are other*
  - *positive,*
  - *constructive*  
*desires.*

*Therefore  
the active force  
must be put in use  
in order to fulfill them [i.e., to fulfill the  
positive, constructive desires].*

*But there are also  
negative desires.*

*Whenever*

- *resentment,*
- *fear,*
- *hatred,*

*and the like  
are in your heart,  
there is  
a negative desire  
and therefore  
an active force  
is used  
instead of  
a passive one.*

*Since a  
wrong desire  
cannot really be fulfilled, and  
if it appears  
to be fulfilled  
the fulfillment  
is very*

- *temporary and*
- *illusory,*

*you become frustrated.*

11

*Practically speaking,  
what must  
your attitude be like  
in those instances  
when you are  
supposed to be  
passive?*

*You cannot  
change*

- *this world or*
- *other people,  
my friends.*

*In your intellect  
you may know that  
very well indeed,  
but  
do your emotions  
always  
know it?*

*Certainly not!*

*It remains to be seen  
whether  
your emotions*

- *will*
- *will not*

*begin to follow  
what you  
know  
in your intellect.*

*So the proper attitude  
would be  
to accept  
what you cannot change,  
namely the*

- *actions and*
- *attitudes*

*of other people and*

- *circumstances*

*outside your control.*

	<p><i>Accept these [attitudes and actions of other people and circumstances outside your control]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>really and</i></li><li>• <i>truly</i></li></ul> <p><i>in your</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>emotions</i></li></ul> <p><i>as well as</i></p> <p><i>in your</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>superficial knowledge,</i></li></ul> <p><i>and you will</i></p> <p><i>re-channel</i></p> <p><i>the wrongly used</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>active</i></li></ul> <p><i>and</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>passive</i></li></ul> <p><i>currents.</i></p>
12	<p><i>This also means</i></p> <p><i>to accept</i></p> <p><i>the imperfection</i></p> <p><i>of this earth sphere</i></p> <p><i>with humility,</i></p> <p><i>knowing that</i></p> <p><i>since you are not perfect,</i></p> <p><i>you</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>cannot and</i></li><li>• <i>must not</i></li></ul> <p><i>resent others' imperfections,</i></p> <p><i>even though</i></p> <p><i>they may be different</i></p> <p><i>from your own.</i></p> <p><i>It even means</i></p> <p><i>to accept</i></p> <p><i>your own imperfections,</i></p> <p><i>which does</i></p> <p><i>not mean that</i></p> <p><i>you should</i></p> <p><i>want</i></p> <p><i>to remain that way.</i></p>

*You have to  
recognize  
your imperfections  
and accept  
for now  
that they actually do exist.*

*Right now  
you possess  
many imperfections  
you have not yet accepted  
in a conscious way  
and therefore  
you revolt against  
this state of affairs [i.e., you revolt against the state of affairs brought  
about by your many unconscious imperfections].*

*In the  
act of revolting [against the state of affairs brought  
about by your many unconscious imperfections  
you set  
an active force in motion  
where  
a passive one  
should exist.*

*Only after  
the passive force [by which you see, make conscious and accept  
your many imperfections]  
has been cultivated*

*can  
a different kind of  
active current [i.e., other than the act of revolting against the state of  
affairs brought about by your many unconscious imperfections]  
be brought to bear*

*so you can  
gradually  
begin to overcome  
the imperfection [that gives rise to the state of affairs you do not want].*

	<p><i>As long as you revolt against things</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>that cannot be changed, or</i></li><li>• <i>that could only be changed</i></li></ul> <p><i>by a different inner activity [i.e., by an inner passive activity where you make conscious and accept your imperfections that are causing the state of affairs you do not want and against which you revolt],</i></p> <p><i>there is</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>a pressure and</i></li><li>• <i>an inner pushing</i></li></ul> <p><i>against a stone wall [i.e., against the “stone wall” of the state of affairs brought about by your own unconscious imperfections].</i></p> <p><i>As long as you do not</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>relinquish or</i></li><li>• <i>relax</i></li></ul> <p><i>this pushing force going in the wrong direction,</i></p> <p><i>you cannot make order in your soul.</i></p>
13	<p><i>Learn to recognize where your desires surge into wrong directions.</i></p>

*If the  
active pressure of  
the wrong desires  
is relaxed,  
you will have  
much more strength left  
for the*

- good and*
- proper*

*desires  
where  
an active force  
is badly needed  
but  
where  
you are presently  
too weak.*

*Why [are you too weak]?*

*Not because  
less strength  
has been given to you  
than to other people,  
but because  
you have  
not managed  
your household well.*

*You have  
allowed*

- disorder,*
- disorganization, and*
- mismanagement*

*to set in.*

*The*

- exactly right and*
- necessary*

*amount of strength  
is available  
for each one of you  
to fulfill your life  
as well as possible.*



	<p><i>It is up to you to</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• use this strength properly and</i></li><li><i>• not waste it.</i></li></ul>
14	<p><i>Do not believe for one moment that those who appear</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• weak and</i></li><li><i>• without will</i></li></ul> <p><i>use less active force than the obviously</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• strong and</i></li><li><i>• self-willed ones.</i></li></ul> <p><i>Often the contrary is true.</i></p> <p><i>The former [i.e., those who appear weak and without will] simply do not display their will on the surface because of other, psychologically conflicting trends.</i></p> <p><i>But within their soul everything sizzles under the pressure of their frustrated will that pushes in the wrong direction [i.e., their will pushes to change that which cannot be changed without first addressing their many unconscious imperfections causing their problems].</i></p>

*They [i.e., those whose frustrated will  
pushes in the wrong direction]  
may not be  
consciously  
aware of this condition [of pushing in the  
wrong direction]*

*but the symptoms  
of their misapplied activity  
must show  
by their  
diminished*

- *health,*
- *strength, and*
- *peace of mind.*

*The moment  
you become  
passive  
where you  
should actually be  
passive –  
not in*

- *your thoughts alone,  
deceiving yourself,*

*but in*

- *your innermost emotions,*

*you will have  
a new*

- *strength and*
- *life force*

*that you have not known before.*

*For this to happen [i.e., for you to have this new strength and life force]  
you have to  
accept  
that which you cannot change  
immediately  
by direct action.*

15

*So far,  
this may  
still sound confusing to you,  
my friends,  
because  
you do not know  
how to find  
your real feelings.*

*Knowing how to begin [to find your real feelings]  
is not half as difficult  
as you may think.*

*The fundamental factor is  
again*

- *to get to  
know yourself,*
- *to ask yourself  
the pertinent questions.*

*This is really  
very simple,  
once you decide  
to accept  
the unavoidable necessity  
of doing it [i.e., the unavoidable necessity of getting to know yourself  
by asking yourself the pertinent questions].*

*Each time  
you feel  
an unpleasant emotion  
like*

- *anger,*
- *anxiety, or*
- *resentment –*

*and your days are often  
full of such emotions –*

*stop rationalizing it [i.e., stop rationalizing the unpleasant emotion] away  
by thinking of  
the wrong attitudes  
of others.*

*Instead, ask yourself,  
"What do I  
really want?"*

*Know that  
the moment there is  
emotion  
in you,  
there is something  
you want.*

*Otherwise  
you would not feel that way.*

*I certainly  
do not say that  
all  
emotions  
are wrong,  
but  
unpleasant emotions  
must have  
a faulty premise  
somewhere,  
no matter  
how wrong  
others may be.*

*The assumption of  
a faulty premise  
often manifests in  
an active pressure  
to change a*

- condition or*
- circumstance*

*where  
acceptance  
should reign.*

16

**Find out**  
**what this pressing desire is**  
**and examine it.**

**It does take**

- **training, and**
- **forming the habit**

**of observing yourself**

**from this point of view** [i.e., from the point of view that unpleasant emotions in you are due to a faulty premise in you that says you should actively try to change a given situation, circumstance or condition that goes against your desire, rather than accept it],

**but**

**how beneficial**  
**this way of thinking is!**

**Once you**

- **begin**
- **and do not let up,**

**you will see that it** [i.e., that observing yourself from the point of view that unpleasant emotions in you are due to a faulty premise in you that says you should actively try to change a given situation, circumstance or condition that goes against your desire, rather than accept it]

**becomes**

- **second nature,**
  - **a good habit**
- without which**

**you**

- **would not and**
  - **should not**
- want to live anymore.**

**It** [i.e., this habit of observing yourself from the point of view that unpleasant emotions in you are due to a faulty premise in you that says you should actively try to change a given situation, circumstance or condition that goes against your desire, rather than accept it]

**is part of**

**the daily**  
**cleansing of the soul.**

	<p><b>Before</b> <b>you start looking at yourself</b> <b>in this way</b> [i.e., from the point of view that unpleasant emotions in you are due to a faulty premise in you that says you should actively try to change a given situation, circumstance or condition that goes against your desire, rather than accept it],</p> <p><b>you are</b> <b>often caught up</b> <b>in an emotional confusion</b> <b>about the nature of your soul.</b></p> <p><b>You do not realize</b> <b>clearly</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>what is going on in you, and</b></li><li>• <b>what your desires are.</b></li></ul> <p><b>Once you begin</b> <b>to focus your attention</b> <b>on the feelings,</b> <b>noticing</b> <b>what the desire is</b> <b>behind them,</b> <b>recognition</b> [of what is going on in your soul and what your desires are] <b>becomes</b> <b>very simple, indeed.</b></p>
17	<p><b>And that</b> [i.e., self-knowledge – recognition of what is going on in your soul and what your desires are]</p> <p><b>is the purpose of</b> <b>the daily review</b> <b>I mention so often.</b></p> <p><b>But if some of you</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>cannot or</b></li><li>• <b>do not like to</b> <b>do your discovery work</b> <b>in the form of</b> <b>daily review,</b> <b>there are</b> <b>other ways of doing it</b> [i.e., other ways of doing your self-discovery work].</li></ul>

*Whenever you have a free moment,  
think about  
the past few hours and  
think what  
your feelings  
actually were*

- during them [during the past few hours] or*
- during  
any particular experience.*

*Then ask yourself,  
"What is my desire?"*

*And when you find  
the answer [to the question, "What is my desire?"],  
you will  
already  
have a clue [as to what is going on in you].*

*The answer [to the question, "What is my desire?"]  
will often be that  
another person  
has done*

- something wrong or*
- what seems wrong  
to you and  
you want [i.e., you desire]  
that person to change.*

*There  
you can actually observe  
close at hand  
that  
where you should be passive,  
you are active  
because  
you  
actively desire  
a change [in the other person whom you think  
has wronged you, a change]  
that you cannot bring about.*

*When these  
overactive desires  
run in the wrong channel [i.e., run in the channel that calls for passivity  
rather than actively trying to make the other person change in some way],  
you completely forget  
those instants  
when  
you  
have the power to change,  
if you would only  
look at yourself [rather than try to change the other person].*

*For there is  
so much power  
given to each one of you!*

*Yet,  
you do not realize it.*

*Why [do you not realize that you have been given so much power, i.e., you have been  
given all the power you need]?*

*Because  
you misdirect your power  
into the wrong channels [i.e., into the channels of trying to change others  
rather than into the channels of changing yourself]  
and it goes to waste.*

*You use it up  
unproductively.*

18

*If you learn to  
examine yourself  
in this manner [i.e., by looking at the desires behind your feelings],  
you will  
not only find*

- wrong and*
- unfulfillable*

*desires in you*

*but*

- conflicting*

*desires as well.*



	<p><i>You often</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>wish</i> <i>at one and the same time</i> <i>for two impossible things and</i></li><li>• <i>create</i> <i>a short circuit within,</i> <i>stemming from</i> <i>these conflicting desires.</i></li></ul> <p><i>Become aware of</i> <i>the paradoxical</i> <i>state of affairs</i> <i>within you.</i></p> <p><i>The only way you can do so</i> <i>is by practicing</i> <i>any type of</i> <i>daily review.</i></p> <p><i>Use</i> <i>self-honesty</i> <i>to examine</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>your feelings and</i></li><li>• <i>the desires behind them.</i></li></ul> <p><i>That is the process</i> <i>to reach maturity,</i> <i>my friends.</i></p>
19	<p><i>Your</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>unconscious and</i></li><li>• <i>often conflicting</i> <i>desires</i></li></ul> <p><i>are</i> <i>always</i> <i>immature.</i></p>

*You often  
desire the impossible,  
like a child;*

*you find yourself  
desiring something*

- *that cannot be had, or*
- *for which  
you are not prepared  
to pay the price.*

*The fact  
that you*

- *do not consider the problem  
from this angle, and*
- *are therefore unaware  
that there is a price to be paid  
for each desired gratification,*

*does not alter the circumstances  
in the least.*

*In your  
unwillingness  
to pay the necessary price  
for a desired goal,  
you leave the issue  
in the unconscious,  
thinking childishly  
to get around it.*

*It is uncomfortable  
to*

- *realize and*
- *obey  
the laws of justice,*

*so by leaving the issue  
in the unconscious  
you make yourself  
ill,  
not only*

- *physically,*

*but*

- *on all levels of your existence.*

20

*So, my dear friends,  
try to*

- *observe yourselves;*
- *identify  
your real desires.*

*You will be surprised  
how much relief  
this knowledge alone [i.e., knowledge of your real desires and their price]  
will already bring you,  
provided  
you have  
wholeheartedly  
decided to do so [i.e., wholeheartedly decided to identify  
your real desires and their price],  
without any subterfuges.*

*You will be relieved  
by the mere knowledge [i.e., the mere knowledge of your real desires  
and their price],*

*for that*

- *will explain the mishaps of your life and*
- *will strengthen your trust in*
  - *God's justice and*
  - *the wonderful order of the universe.*

*God  
does not want you  
to be a puppet  
dependent on  
the wrong concept of divinity  
that makes you  
hold on to God's apron strings,  
expecting Him  
to run your life for you.*

*Then [i.e., when you make yourself a puppet dependent on  
the wrong concept of divinity]*

*of course  
if your life  
is not what you want it to be,  
you can blame Him for it  
in some hidden way.*

*In reality  
God wants you to be*

- *independent and*
- *strong,*

*and you can only be that  
by following the way  
I am showing you.*

*You can conduct your life satisfactorily,  
but  
He will not do it for you.*

*He will let  
you  
run your own life,  
and if it becomes  
a mess,  
then it is*

- *you*

*who must change,  
not*

- *others or*
- *circumstances.*

*However,  
you  
can even control*

- *circumstances and*
- *other people*

*the moment  
you start allowing*

- *your wrong overactive currents  
to become*
  - *passive and*
- *the wrong passive currents  
to become*
  - *active.*

	<p><i>For those purified currents [i.e., the right passive and active currents running in their right respective channels]</i></p> <p><i>will</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>emanate from you and</i></li><li>• <i>indirectly affect</i></li></ul> <p><i>the subconscious of other people.</i></p> <p><i>And that effect</i></p> <p><i>will come back to you</i></p> <p><i>gradually,</i></p> <p><i>in the form of</i></p> <p><i>more</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>truthful and</i></li><li>• <i>harmonious</i></li></ul> <p><i>interactions.</i></p>
21	<p><i>Now the question of</i></p> <p><i>what the will of God is for you</i></p> <p><i>still remains open.</i></p> <p><i>I have said that</i></p> <p><i>it is not only</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>wrong</i></li></ul> <p><i>to believe that you</i></p> <p><i>have to be passive</i></p> <p><i>in order to fulfill God's will,</i></p> <p><i>but it is</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>impossible</i></li></ul> <p><i>to be</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>passive and</i></li><li>• <i>without a will</i></li></ul> <p><i>to do that [i.e., to fulfill God's will].</i></p> <p><i>To fulfill the will of God</i></p> <p><i>means</i></p> <p><i>overcoming</i></p> <p><i>your inner resistances</i></p> <p><i>and for that [i.e., for overcoming your inner resistances to fulfilling the will of God]</i></p> <p><i>you do need</i></p> <p><i>activity,</i></p> <p><i>although</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>of a different kind,</i></li><li>• <i>running on different tracks, so to speak.</i></li></ul>

	<p><b><i>But [to fulfill the will of God] you need</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b><i>• activity and</i></b></li><li><b><i>• strength of will nevertheless.</i></b></li></ul> <p><b><i>The passivity is necessary, though certainly not in order to fulfill God's will.</i></b></p>
22	<p><b><i>First of all, you confuse</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b><i>• God's will</i></b></li></ul> <p><b><i>with</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b><i>• self-will.</i></b></li></ul> <p><b><i>Let us determine clearly what is</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b><i>• self-will</i></b></li></ul> <p><b><i>in comparison with</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b><i>• free will.</i></b></li></ul> <p><b><i>Self-will is the will of the little ego.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Free will comprises everything: you can use free will for</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b><i>• good</i></b></li></ul> <p><b><i>or</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b><i>• bad</i></b></li></ul> <p><b><i>ends.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>That is up to you.</i></b></p>

	<p><i>To agree on the terminology so as not to invite any misunderstandings:</i></p> <p><i>self-will</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>belongs to the little blind ego and</i></li><li>• <i>is thus the will of the lower self.</i></li></ul>
23	<p><i>Now, in order to find God's will, you must certainly be free of self-will,</i></p> <p><i>but your</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>active and</i></li><li>• <i>clean willpower must be used,</i></li></ul> <p><i>first,</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>for the desire to meet your resistances [against following God's will] without any</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>wishful thinking and</i></li><li>• <i>self-deception;</i></li></ul></li></ul> <p><i>second,</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>for making sure that you do leave your self-will aside; and</i></li></ul> <p><i>third,</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>for preparation to use your willpower even more actively to follow the will of God once you know it.</i></li></ul>

*To determine  
what the will of God is  
in individual instances,  
you very rarely need  
a transcendent revelation.*

*God's will  
is always  
contained within you,  
behind  
your blind spots.*

*From the moment you take off*  

- *your masks and*
- *the rose-colored glasses you use*  
*when you view*
  - *your own self,*
  - *your motives, and*
  - *your life,*

*God's will  
must evolve*  

- *clearly and*
- *without a doubt.*

*It will evolve  
as you*  

- *discover your*  
*real desires and*
- *put them down in black and white and*
- *say to yourself,*  
*"This is what I actually want*  
*when I am honest with myself."*

*You may be surprised  
how this*  

- *newly-discovered*
- *inner*  
*wanting*

*deviates from*  

- *your conscious desires.*



***But do not believe  
that because of this conflict [between your newly-discovered inner wanting  
and your conscious desires]  
you are  
despicable.***

***No,  
you should know  
that your soul  
consists of layers  
which may be called***

- the higher self***

***and***

- the lower self.***

***Accept  
that  
both are in you  
and all will be well.***

***Then you will not lose  
your sense of proportion  
in evaluating yourself,  
either exaggerating***

- in one direction***

***or [exaggerating]***

- in the other.***

25

***The moment you do***

- examine***  
***a particular desire***  
***of your lower self and***
- bring it into your consciousness –***  
***being careful***  
***not to allow it to slip away again***  
***into unconsciousness –***

***you will be able***  
***to know quite clearly***  
***what is God's will***  
***in nine out of ten cases.***

***I can promise you that.***

	<p><b>Examine</b> <b>the various chain reactions</b> <b>that led you to the present state,</b> <b>consider</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>the repercussions,</b></li><li>• <b>the significance, and</b></li><li>• <b>the consequences</b></li></ul> <p><b>of your desire and</b> <b>compare it [i.e., compare your desire]</b> <b>with the spiritual laws</b> <b>as far as you know them.</b></p>
26	<p><b>If you</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>are in a certain situation now</b> <b>which you want to change, or</b></li><li>• <b>face a difficult decision,</b></li></ul> <p><b>you will of course</b> <b>not know what God's will is</b> <b>if you merely let it go at that [i.e., merely let it go at looking at</b> <b>various chain reactions that led you to the present state or</b> <b>at comparing your desire with spiritual laws].</b></p> <p><b>But the moment you ask</b> <b>more penetrating questions of yourself</b> <b>concerning</b> <b>underlying desires</b> <b>that may be responsible for your present state,</b> <b>the answer [as to what God's will is in a particular situation]</b> <b>must evolve</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>clearly,</b></li><li>• <b>strongly, and</b></li><li>• <b>self-evidently.</b></li></ul> <p><b>It [i.e., the answer as to what God's will is in a particular situation]</b> <b>will evolve all the</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>quicker and</b></li><li>• <b>better</b></li></ul> <p><b>if you</b> <b>enlist God's help for this purpose,</b> <b>because God</b> <b>never gives any help of this sort</b> <b>if you have not made the first step.</b></p>

	<p><i>The first step, in addition to your sincere goodwill to</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>purify yourself and</i></li><li>• <i>do God's will in all instances,</i></li></ul> <p><i>is always your endeavor toward</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>self-knowledge,</i></li><li>• <i>self-honesty.</i></li></ul> <p><i>The</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>wise and</i></li><li>• <i>mature</i></li></ul> <p><i>attitude, of course, is</i></p> <p><i>not believing that you can change</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>from one day to another or</i></li><li>• <i>without making an effort on your own behalf.</i></li></ul>
27	<p><i>If your present situation feels unsatisfactory in any way, or if you are not clear about a decision you are called upon to make,</i></p> <p><i>do not expect God</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>to decide for you or</i></li><li>• <i>to alter an unpleasant situation without your active participation in the process.</i></li></ul> <p><i>You have to</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>realize that there must be something in you that contributed to the undesirable circumstance to begin with and</i></li><li>• <i>be willing to</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>find what it is</i></li></ul></li><li><i>and</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>change it.</i></li></ul></li></ul>

*Do not forget  
that the wrong  
is not necessarily  
a sinful*

- *action or*
- *thought,*

*but [often rather] an  
unrecognized*

- *emotion*

*that*

- *surges in a wrong channel or*
- *violates a spiritual law.*

*God recognizes  
your goodwill, and  
if you  
combine*

- *prayer*

*with*

- *the work of*
  - *self-examination and*
  - *tearing down your masks,*

*His answer  
will become ever more clear,  
so that  
there will be  
no possible room for doubt in you.*

*But as long as  
your resistance against  
this way of working persists,  
no matter what the*

- *pretexts and*
- *excuses*

*are,*

- *the sluggishness and*
- *the immaturity*

*of your lower self  
has the better of you.*

	<p><i>You will have</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>wrong reactions and</i></li><li>• <i>distorted instincts,</i></li></ul> <p><i>which you will then want to interpret to fit the resistance of your lower self.</i></p>
28	<p><i>The only way you can positively know whether a</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>right and</i></li><li>• <i>good</i></li></ul> <p><i>instinct</i></p> <p><i>or a</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>wrong and</i></li><li>• <i>false</i></li></ul> <p><i>one</i></p> <p><i>guides you is by the</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>happiness,</i></li><li>• <i>relief,</i></li><li>• <i>freedom, and the</i></li><li>• <i>sense of</i></li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>utter rightness and</i></li><li>• <i>peace with the world</i></li></ul> <p><i>that you will have as a result of it [i.e., the result of following the instinct] –</i></p> <p><i>or by the</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>experience</i></li></ul> <p><i>of the very opposite.</i></p> <p><i>If your will is free of</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>self-pampering and</i></li></ul> <p><i>is</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>pure and</i></li><li>• <i>humble,</i></li></ul> <p><i>God's will can clearly manifest, no matter how</i></p> <p><i>He chooses to reveal Himself to you.</i></p>

*In many instances  
you will  
not need  
a particular revelation,  
but with*

- your good efforts and*
- God's help  
enlisted in prayer,*

*you will find out  
the answer [regarding the will of God in a given instance]  
for yourself.*

*God will help you  
through His angels  
so that you*

- can do it better and*
- have more support  
from the spirit world and*
- receive  
more*
- guidance and*
- help.*

*You  
must be the one  
to decide,  
"I want to do it [i.e., I want to do God's will]  
wholeheartedly."*

- Then God  
will help you.*
- Then there will be  
no problem  
knowing what God's will is  
for you.*

29

- The answer and*
- the key  
to God's will  
are within you.*

*It [i.e., the answer regarding God's will for you in a particular instance]  
lies in  
your imperfections;  
it lies in  
every instance  
where you have*

- deviated from or*
- broken*

*a spiritual law,  
be it merely in your  
unconscious  
desire-currents.*

*And then,  
as you digest the answers [as to the will of God for you in a particular instance],*

- the active process*

*will start functioning properly  
as by itself and  
flow into the right channels;  
and so will*

- the passive forces.*

*Yes, my friends,  
this change [of the active and passive processes functioning properly and  
flowing into the right channels]*

- will and*
- must*

*happen.*

*It cannot be otherwise.*

*And that, of course,  
will change  
your entire life  
for the better.*

30

**QUESTION:**  
*How can we tell  
if desires  
come from*

- the higher*

*or*

- the lower self?*

31

**ANSWER:**

**By examining**

- *the desires and*
- *their real motives.*

- *Very clearly and*
- *very concisely*  
*ask yourself the question,*

*"What is it  
I want and  
why  
do I want such and such?"*

*What is  
my real motive  
behind [wanting] it?"*

*You see,  
it may very often be  
that you have*

- *a right desire*

*coming from*

- *a good motive.*

*At the same time  
there is also  
an impure motive in [wanting] it.*

*The moment you recognize this [i.e., the moment you recognize that there are pure  
as well as impure motives in wanting such and such],  
you already  
have done something  
for your purification.*

32

*Purifying  
does not mean  
that you are  
already perfect;  
purification  
is the process of  
becoming perfect.*



*An integral part  
of the [purification] process  
is to say,*

*"In addition to my  
• good motive,  
there is also a  
• selfish or  
• vain  
motive  
hidden under  
the good cause."*

*Take the example of a person  
who is spiritually  
very active  
with  
• clean and  
• pure  
motives  
to help other people.*

*These good motives  
exist  
indubitably [i.e., they exist beyond a shadow of a doubt].*

*At the same time,  
the desire-current  
of the lower self  
mingles with  
the good motives,  
perhaps  
as the ego's  
vain desire  
to be  
• outstanding,  
to be  
• admired,  
to be  
• an authority.*

*The moment  
the mixture of [both pure and impure] motives  
is*

- calmly and*
- freely*

*recognized,  
even if  
you are  
as yet  
incapable of shedding  
the impure ones,  
purification  
is already taking place.*

*With such an act [i.e., with the act of calmly and freely  
recognizing both the pure and impure motives],  
you have already  
raised your consciousness  
to a pretty high degree.*

*Something  
in the chemistry of your*

- body and*
- soul*

*begins to change  
with such clear  
self-recognition,  
because  
you approach  
truth.*

33

*The*

- severest and*
- most frequent*

*violation of spiritual law  
that is so often  
overlooked by human beings*

*is  
not living in truth.*

*[By my statement, “not living in truth is the severest violation of spiritual law”]*

**You all imagine  
that I mean  
you should not lie.**

**I do  
not  
mean that at all.**

**It is self-understood  
that a person**

- **should be honest and**
- **should not lie.**

**But**

- **lying to oneself**

**is often**  
**infinitely more**

- **dangerous and**
- **harmful**

**than**

- **lying to others.**

**Why**  
**is it more dangerous [to lie to yourself than to lie to others]?**

**Because**  
**when you lie to**

- **others,**

**at least**

- **you are aware of it;**
- **you know it.**

**Thus you are a step nearer to truth  
than when you lie to**

- **yourself.**

**When you lie  
to yourself,  
you do not realize it,  
not because**

- **you cannot,**

**but because**

- **you do not want to!**

*So [in lying to yourself, and in not wanting to realize that you are lying to yourself]  
you have  
completely  
turned away from truth.*

*That [i.e., completely turning away from truth by not wanting to  
realize that you are lying to yourself]  
is a very grave violation,  
setting you apart  
from God.*

*It [i.e., completely turning away from truth by not wanting to  
realize that you are lying to yourself]  
surrounds you  
with a dark wall  
behind which  
you must be  
unhappy,  
quite apart from the  
outer conflicts  
which the violation [of spiritual law]  
creates for you  
sooner or later.*

*Behind the wall  
you are*

- lonely and*
- lost.*

*The only way  
you can find your way  
into the light  
is by*

- tearing down the wall and*
- looking at what is behind it,  
even if  
what you find  
is unpleasant.*

*The first time [you tear down pieces of the wall that hides you from yourself and  
look at what is behind it]  
you will struggle,  
but after you have torn down  
the first few stones of the wall,  
the relief will be tremendous.*

*Then [i.e., after you have torn down the first few stones of the dark wall that  
hides you from yourself]  
you will know  
what it means  
to be on this path.*

*You will know  
that*

- *only this manner of working [i.e., that only honest self-observation]*
- *nothing else  
counts,  
my friends.*

34

*I am trying to make you understand  
that you are  
not  
unfree creatures  
if you decide to  
fulfill the will of God –  
quite the contrary.*

*For it needs the*

- *greatest and*
- *freest*

*efforts of willpower  
to decide  
to live within  
spiritual law.*

***In order to do that [i.e., in order to live within spiritual law],  
as I have explained,  
it is necessary  
to recognize  
your***

- ***innermost motives and***
- ***hidden currents.***

***Only a  
free person  
can do that [i.e., only a free person can recognize  
his or her innermost motives  
and hidden currents].***

***Conversely,  
if people  
constantly  
decide to use their little self-will,  
they become  
more  
and more  
• bound and  
• chained.***

***For  
the more  
you live in divine law,  
the freer  
you must become,  
and  
the more  
you break divine law,  
the more enslaved  
you must become.***

*People who  
do not recognize  
their hidden motives  
cannot conduct their lives  
freely.*

*They are enslaved  
to their*

- lower selves,*

*to their*

- unrecognized desires,*

*which*

- push*

*and*

- pull*

*them*

- backward and*
- forward,*
- left and*
- right.*

35

**QUESTION:**  
*Does that mean that  
whatever we want to do,  
we always have to ask God,  
"Is this Thy will?"*

*Or do you have to see  
whether it [i.e., see whether whatever we want to do]  
does not deviate from God's law?*

36

**ANSWER:**  
*I would suggest this:*

*In the first place,  
when you are on this path,  
you begin to make  
an inventory  
about your own person,  
as I have often suggested.*

*Compile a list,  
not only of  
your*

- faults,*

*your*

- qualities and*
- virtues,*

*in other words of*

- what you*

*are,*  
*but also of*

- what you*

*want.*

- What are  
your desires  
really?*

*And when you have done that,  
begin*  
*a constant process  
of self-analysis  
of your feelings  
every day.*

*You will  
automatically  
get to know after a while  
in what respect  
you have obviously deviated from  
divine law  
in your emotional currents.*

*Sometimes,  
when you discover  
the nature of a  
hidden  
desire,  
you will know  
at once  
that it [i.e., that the hidden desire]  
is contrary to God's will,  
even without  
any metaphysical knowledge.*



*In other cases,  
you may have to  
probe a little deeper  
and separate*

- *the clean motive*

*from*

- *the impure [motive]*

*in the same desire current.*

*As you view  
what is at stake  
in an issue,  
you will seldom find an answer  
by asking  
whether the action you contemplate  
is*

- *right*

*or*

- *wrong.*

*Since  
none of you  
would ever consider  
committing an*

- *antisocial or*
- *sinful*

*act,  
the decisions  
you are faced with  
could be  
right*  
*either way [you decide]  
in principle.*

*Yet,  
for each individual  
there is  
always*

- *only one*

*right way*  
*and*

- *many, many*

*wrong ways  
possible.*

*So you have to consider  
your  
• honest motives*

*behind  
your  
• apparent good motives;*

*that [consideration of your honest motives behind your apparent good motives]  
will determine the*

*• right  
or  
• wrong  
action  
for you,*

*not  
the ethical value  
of the action itself.*

*As long as  
you have not found  
all  
the motives  
behind a desire,*

*you will  
not be able to know  
the right action  
for you.*

*The right procedure is  
not to ask God  
simply to let you know  
whether to do such and such,  
thus avoiding  
the work of  
self-knowledge  
on your part.*

*There may be  
isolated instances  
where this [i.e., where to ask God to let you know what the right action is]  
can be the right thing to do,  
but not generally,  
not when there seems to be*

- a repetitive pattern and*
- a conflict involved.*

*The right procedure  
is to decide  
wholeheartedly  
that  
you wish to find  
all the motives  
behind  
the conscious motive,  
and for that [i.e., for finding all the motives behind the conscious motive]  
you should pray  
for God's help.*

*Then He will help you.*

*Is that clear?*

**QUESTIONER:** *Yes.*

37

**ANSWER:**  
*So find out  
your underlying motives –  
which does  
not mean that  
the [conscious] motive on the surface  
is annulled.*

*But the other part [of your motive]  
that is mixed in with it [i.e., that is mixed with the conscious motive]  
has to be found.*

*Then you will have the answer [as to whether some action you are  
contemplating is in accord with God's will for you].*

38

*There is one more thing I would like to say to you  
before we turn to your general questions.*

*It is about*

- *the outer will*

*and*

- *the inner will.*

*By the latter [i.e., by the “inner will”]*

*I do*

*not*

*only mean*

*the subconscious will.*

*The inner will*

*I speak of*

*can be made*

*conscious*

*comparatively easily.*

*I have often*

*given you the advice*

*to listen within you*

*where your*

- *solar plexus or*

- *spiritual field*

*is.*

*You may*

*receive answers from there;*

*you may*

*feel*

- *right*

*or*

- *wrong*

*from this part of yourself,*

*provided*

- *you have once*

*wholeheartedly*

*decided for*

*the right course and*

- *that the*

- *resistance and*

- *fight*

*are over and done with.*

	<p><i>If you</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>become</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>very quiet and</i></li><li>• <i>relaxed and</i></li></ul></li><li>• <i>listen within,</i></li></ul> <p><i>you may find</i> <i>that there is</i> <i>another will [i.e., there is a will different from your outer conscious will]</i> <i>coming from there [i.e., from within, from the solar plexus area],</i> <i>or you may feel</i> <i>the lack of it [i.e. lack of another will coming from within],</i> <i>for that matter.</i></p> <p><i>This will</i> <i>or</i> <i>its absence</i> <i>often conflicts with</i> <i>your</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>outer or</i></li><li>• <i>conscious</i> <i>will.</i></li></ul>
39	<p><i>Let us suppose</i> <i>a person</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>sincerely desires</i> <i>to love a fellow-creature and</i></li><li>• <i>desires to do so</i> <i>because</i> <i>he knows</i> <i>that it is</i> <i>right.</i></li></ul> <p><i>This desire</i> <i>is in the person's</i> <i>outer will.</i></p> <p><i>After</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>becoming quiet and</i></li><li>• <i>consulting the inner will,</i></li></ul> <p><i>the person will find out that</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>the inner will</i></li></ul> <p><i>does not conform with</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>the outer one.</i></li></ul>

	<p><i>To find out such a discrepancy [between the inner will and the outer conscious will] is extremely important, for how can you control yourself if you do not know what is within you?</i></p> <p><i>By controlling yourself, I certainly do not mean suppressing anything, but rather holding life's reins firmly in one's hands.</i></p> <p><i>How can you cure a wrong current if you do not discover it first?</i></p>
40	<p><i>If the inner will is right, it</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• exists very quietly from deep within</i></li></ul> <p><i>and yet</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• is conscious.</i></li></ul>

*Now, if people  
desire*

- *to do their best,*
- *to fulfill their tasks  
as well as they are able to or*
- *to overcome their faults  
as well as possible  
at the present stage,*

*their*

*inner will*

*should be directed toward that end,*

- *without pressure,*
- *without haste.*

*The outer will*

*does not press*

*but is relaxed.*

*A pressure*

*from the outer will*

- *must make a person tense and*
- *will only delay the process.*

*The inner will*

*must*

*want*

- *the right thing and*
- *the ultimate goal.*

*The outer will*

*must*

- *be serene and*
  - *give leeway for life's*
    - *hindrances and*
    - *imperfections*
- that make it impossible  
to proceed*
- *speedily and*
  - *according to  
a certain plan.*

*The  
apparent  
obstacles  
should be met  
voluntarily  
as a means  
of*

- *growing faster,*

*of*

- *learning to accept  
that which cannot be altered  
by the self,*

*of*

- *learning*
  - *humility, and*
  - *other positive attitudes.*

*Then [when the obstacles are thus met as a means of learning and growing]  
the obstacles  
will*

- *cease to be  
obstacles and  
will instead*
- *become  
stepping stones  
on the way to the goal.*

*The outer will  
must be*

- *flexible;*

*it must be*

- *prepared for change.*

*Sometimes it [i.e., the outer will]  
has to become  
more active,  
so you can act.*

*At other times it [i.e., the outer will]  
has to become  
more passive.*



	<p><i>The inner will has to be active, but quietly, as befits the whole foundation of the person's life.</i></p> <p><i>To understand these words truly, meditate about them</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• deeply</i></li><li><i>and perhaps</i></li><li><i>• quite often.</i></li></ul>
41	<p><i>And now we turn to your other questions.</i></p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b> <i>In the case of war, is the act of killing by a soldier contrary to divine law?</i></p>
42	<p><b>ANSWER:</b> <i>No, it is not.</i></p> <p><i>For as Jesus Christ has said,</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• render unto God what is God's and</i></li><li><i>• render unto Caesar that which is due to him.</i></li></ul> <p><i>If human beings on the earth sphere are still so far behind in development that war is necessary, then people have to fight for their country.</i></p>

*Even if  
all people  
refused to fight,  
evil would not be eliminated.*

*War may be  
temporarily eliminated [if people refuse to fight],  
but certainly  
not evil [i.e., evil would not be eliminated if all people refuse to fight].*

*War  
is only one  
of many other  
expressions of evil.*

*War  
is not the cause [of evil]:  
it [i.e., war]  
is only an effect [of evil].*

*It would be the same  
if a father  
allowed a murderer to come into his house  
and kill his wife and children  
without defending them.*

*He must  
defend  
those he loves and  
evil  
has to be  
fought against.*

*In your  
present state of development,  
unfortunately,  
war often  
is still your means  
of fighting evil.*

*As spiritual development grows,  
you will learn to*

- go more to  
the roots of the problems and*
- fight against evil  
in better ways.*

*As it stands now,  
humanity  
is often forced  
to battle against  
forces that abuse*

- free will and*
- divine law.*

*If people  
take the power upon themselves  
to prevent  
other people  
from living as God wants them to live, and  
if your world  
has not found  
other means as yet  
to eliminate this wrong,  
then war  
is the lesser evil.*

43

*You know  
from the spiritual point of view  
that  
death  
is not the worst thing that can happen.*

*Spiritual death  
is the worst,  
not  
physical death.*

*Every person  
is judged  
individually,  
and the judgment  
comprises also*

- *the circumstances and*
- *the environment*

*in which he or she lives.*

*In the spirit world,*

- *the real motives*

*count more than*

- *the act,*

*and judgment  
is not passed*

- *generally or*
- *collectively.*

*Everyone  
is judged separately,  
and if a man goes to war  
simply to defend his country,  
this will not count against him.*

*What counts  
is a person's  
inner*

- *attitudes,*
- *feelings,*
- *reactions,*
- *motives, and*
- *sense of responsibility.*

44

**QUESTION:**  
*How does*

- *spiritual law*

*correspond with*

- *human law*

*in the case of  
a death sentence  
for a murderer?*

45

**ANSWER:**

*From the spiritual point of view,  
capital punishment  
is wrong.*

*That may sound like a contradiction  
when compared with the last answer,  
but it is not.*

*In the case of war,  
it is a question of  
defending*

- *a nation and*
- *humanity.*

*For humanity,  
war is often  
the last resort.*

*And even the people living in  
the aggressor nation  
are often convinced  
that they are only  
doing their duty;  
they do not see  
the whole picture.*

*They have to abide by  
the laws of their society.*

*Otherwise  
they might cause  
more hardship,  
not only  
to themselves,  
thereby becoming incapable of  
fulfilling their lives,  
but also  
to others around them.*

*Again,  
we cannot generalize,  
for there may be instances  
when it is the duty of a person  
to violate*

- a human law*

*in order  
to fulfill*

- a law of God.*

*But these instances are*

- rare and*
- only expected of*
  - strong and*
  - highly developed*

*beings  
sent to earth  
with a special mission.*

*In general,  
this does not hold true.*

46

*Capital punishment  
is not a necessity.*

*However,  
war  
often is [necessary]  
in your present state of development.*

*You have  
not yet  
found the way  
to eliminate  
war.*

	<p><i>The only way to do so [i.e., the only way to eliminate war] is when</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>resentment,</i></li><li>• <i>hate, and</i></li><li>• <i>fear</i></li></ul> <p><i>do not live in the individual soul any more.</i></p> <p><i>That is the only basis for peace.</i></p> <p><i>But capital punishment is not necessary.</i></p>
47	<p><b>QUESTION:</b> <i>You said in my private session to bring up this question: What are the various aspects of love?</i></p>
48	<p><b>ANSWER:</b> <i>There are many [aspects of love] and I cannot attempt to enumerate all of them.</i></p> <p><i>I will just name a few:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>compassion,</i></li><li>• <i>pity,</i></li><li>• <i>respect,</i></li><li>• <i>admiration,</i></li><li>• <i>tenderness,</i></li><li>• <i>protectiveness,</i></li><li>• <i>helpfulness,</i></li><li>• <i>kindness,</i></li><li>• <i>truth.</i></li></ul> <p><i>Yes, my friends, without truth, there can be no love!</i></p> <p><i>This [list of aspects of love] will suffice for the moment.</i></p>

49	<p><b>QUESTION:</b> <i>A seeming unproductivity in your life; is that possibly</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>a stage,</i></li></ul> <p><i>or</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>an indication that you are going in the wrong direction?</i></li></ul>
50	<p><b>ANSWER:</b> <i>It [i.e., a seeming unproductivity in your life] often is an indication that you are going in the wrong direction.</i></p> <p><i>It [i.e., a seeming unproductivity in your life] might also be that in certain circumstances</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>your will is counteracted by</i></li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>unconscious conflicting desires,</i></li></ul> <p><i>or by</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>fear.</i></li></ul> <p><i>As long as this reality [i.e., the reality that your will is counteracted by unconscious conflicting desires or fear] is not brought into consciousness, you cannot handle it [i.e., cannot handle the cause for your unproductivity in life] properly.</i></p> <p><i>So the only course to take is the one I advocate [i.e., the course of self-awareness and self-purification].</i></p> <p><i>Of course, I am speaking generally.</i></p>



***I have no right  
to give you the answer.***

***It [i.e., giving you the answer as to what of which you are unconscious is  
causing your unproductivity]  
would weaken you.***

***It will serve  
your development  
to find out for yourself [i.e., find out and make conscious what, of which you  
are as yet unconscious, is causing your unproductivity].***

***And you can  
quite easily do that  
with the guidance  
of my teachings.***

***Actually, the two possibilities you mentioned [i.e., that a time of unproductivity is  
either a stage in life or an indication you are going in the wrong direction]  
form a whole.***

***As long as  
there is conflict within you  
about a direction of your life,  
you cannot be successful  
in the field you have chosen.***

***You can only  
be successful in anything  
when  
there is no conflict within you.***

***And spontaneously,  
when you have  
solved the conflict  
between your  
• conscious desires  
and the  
• unconscious ones,  
you will find out  
what the right direction is for you.***

***Then  
your desires  
may change.***

**Find out  
the real motives  
behind  
your present desires, and  
find out  
what holds you back [from fulfilling your desires].**

**Is it [i.e., is what holds you back from fulfilling your desires]**

- a fear or**
- a desire**

**to not pay the price**

**wholeheartedly –**

**which [i.e., the desire to not pay the price wholeheartedly]**

- is not necessarily bad, and**

**it [i.e., the desire to not pay the price wholeheartedly]**

- may be good.**

**For,**

**spiritually speaking,**

**the price is sometimes**

**too high [for fulfilling your desires].**

51

**At times**

**it is**

- the lower self**

**that prevents success**

**in a certain direction, and**

**sometimes**

**it is**

- the higher self**

**which recognizes**

**that this [desire for success in a particular direction]**

**is not good,**

**so it prevents you from achieving success.**

	<p><i>You can find the answer [whether it is the lower self or higher self that is blocking your success in a given direction] by testing your motives without any</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• self-pampering or</i></li><li><i>• sensitivity for your ego,</i></li></ul> <p><i>with</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• utter and</i></li><li><i>• shattering self-honesty.</i></li></ul> <p><i>That [i.e., testing your motives with utter self-honesty] is the only procedure that I cannot advise strongly enough, even at the risk of boring you, my friends.</i></p>
52	<p><b>QUESTION:</b> <i>When you say an incarnation has taken place in a certain country, does that mean where a person was born even if he or she has only lived there for a very short time, or does it mean where one has spent most of one's life?</i></p>
53	<p><b>ANSWER:</b> <i>Most of one's life.</i></p> <p><i>It [i.e., the country of your incarnation] would be where your roots are;</i></p> <p><i>it [i.e., the country of your incarnation] would be the country</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• you consider your home,</i></li><li><i>• where you have made</i></li><li><i>• your connections,</i></li><li><i>• your ties, and</i></li><li><i>• your karmic links.</i></li></ul>

54	<p><b>QUESTION:</b> <i>This does not correspond to astrology?</i></p>
55	<p><b>ANSWER:</b> <i>In astrology the situation is different because the astrological chart has to be figured according to the geographical part of the world.</i></p> <p><i>That is something different.</i></p>
56	<p><b>QUESTION:</b> <i>A question in connection with</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• war and</i></li><li><i>• killing:</i></li></ul> <p><i>How are we to regard a conscientious objector who</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• sincerely follows the admonition not to kill and</i></li><li><i>• considers the whole of the universe as his fellow-men rather than only the part he is called upon to defend?</i></li></ul>
57	<p><b>ANSWER:</b> <i>In the first place, a man is not defending a part of geography but [rather is defending] his immediate fellow-creatures.</i></p>

***By refusing to go to war,  
he may in the long run  
cause more harm than good.***

***With this  
I certainly do not wish to give the impression  
that I advocate war.***

***By no means.***

***But war  
cannot be eliminated  
by refusing it.***

***This cancer [i.e., war]  
• has to be treated in another way and  
• slowly has to cease in all individuals.***

***A conscientious objector,  
provided his motives are pure,  
will be judged accordingly.***

***Then this [i.e., then being a conscientious objector]  
will certainly not be held against him,  
the same as killing in a war by a soldier  
will not be held against him,  
if  
• his heart is  
pure and  
• his conviction  
sincere.***

***But that does not alter  
the fact  
that his [i.e., the conscientious objector's]  
judgment  
is wrong.***

	<p><i>More precisely, his [i.e., the conscientious objector's]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>goal or</i></li><li>• <i>endeavor</i></li></ul> <p><i>is a good one [i.e., the conscientious objector's goal to oust an evil</i> <i>is a good goal],</i></p> <p><i>just as the goal of a sincere soldier</i> <i>may be a good one,</i></p> <p><i>but he [i.e., but the conscientious objector]</i> <i>selects</i> <i>the wrong means</i> <i>to oust an evil.</i></p>
58	<p><i>Refusing to go to war</i> <i>could</i> <i>not</i> <i>be</i> <i>the right curative means</i> <i>against war.</i></p> <p><i>For</i></p> <p><i>as long as</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>there is hatred</i> <i>within the individual soul, and</i></li></ul> <p><i>as long as</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>there is blindness</i> <i>caused</i> <i>through lack of self-knowledge, and</i></li></ul> <p><i>as long as</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>people do not</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>purify themselves and</i></li><li>• <i>strive upward to God, and</i></li></ul></li></ul> <p><i>as long as</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>people cannot</i> <i>refine their feelings,</i></li></ul> <p><i>there cannot</i> <i>be peace.</i></p> <p><i>It is impossible.</i></p>

**War**  
**is an outpicturing**  
**of what goes on**  
**in so many**  
**individual personalities.**

**It [i.e., war]**  
**cannot be eliminated**  
**by collective means alone,**  
**well meant as they [i.e., as collective means alone] may be,**  
**unless they [i.e., unless the collective means]**  
**are supported by**  
**the right spiritual attitudes [within each of the**  
**individuals involved].**

**The cure [for the evils of war]**  
**has to start**  
**from within**  
**by each individual.**

**Otherwise**  
**you will only succeed**  
**in eliminating**  
**one effect [of the root cause of evil],**  
**and another symptom**  
**will come.**

59

**It is just the same with**  
**disease,**  
**my friends.**

**War**  
**is nothing else**  
**but a disease.**

**Your human**  
**• history and**  
**your human**  
**• science**  
**show you**  
**how many ways**  
**medicine has found**  
**to eliminate disease.**

*Many diseases  
that existed a relatively very short time ago  
are not possible anymore.*

*But other diseases  
have sprung up  
that you cannot cure, and  
new diseases  
will continue to do so  
until  
a greater degree of purification  
exists  
on this earth,  
no matter  
what wonderful progress*

- science and*
- medicine*

*make.*

*As long as  
the disease  
is not cured  
from within,*

- war or*
- other diseases*

*will exist.*

*If it is not war [that exists],  
it will be something else  
equally terrible.*

60

*In the case of  
an individual,  
it is possible  
to make a mistake in judgment  
and this in itself  
is not held against you  
as long as you*

- are sincere and*
- do not*
  - delude yourself and*
  - color your motives.*



*You all  
make mistakes  
in judgment.*

*People have  
very firm opinions  
about any subject  
from*

- religion*

*to*

- politics.*

*The moment these opinions are*

- fanatical and*
- inflexible,*

*people should test  
their real inner motives  
and then they may find out  
that these opinions  
are not as objective  
as they may have thought at first.*

*If you dig*

- deeply and*
- honestly,*

*you will be surprised  
how often you find a*

- personal,*
- emotional,*
- subjective*

*reason  
behind your convictions.*

61

**QUESTION:**  
*What is  
the opposite aspect  
of vanity?*

62	<p><b>ANSWER:</b> <b>Love</b> <b>and humility [are opposite aspects of vanity].</b></p> <p><b>For</b> <b>if you are vain,</b> <b>you want to place your ego</b> <b>in the first row.</b></p> <p><b>You want</b> <b>admiration –</b> <b>I am not speaking personally now –</b> <b>and you want</b> <b>to be more than</b> <b>the other person.</b></p>
63	<p><b>So, my friends,</b> <b>God's blessing</b> <b>is given to you.</b></p> <p><b>God's love</b> <b>is streaming to you.</b></p> <p><b>May the words I have given you</b> <b>• bear fruit and</b> <b>• help you on your path and</b> <b>• strengthen you.</b></p> <p><b>Be in</b> <b>• peace,</b></p> <p><b>be in</b> <b>• love,</b></p> <p><b>be in</b> <b>• God!</b></p>

For information to find and participate in Pathwork activities world wide, please write:

The Pathwork® Foundation  
PO Box 6010  
Charlottesville, VA 22906-6010, USA  
Call: 1-800-PATHWORK, or  
Visit: [www.pathwork.org](http://www.pathwork.org)

The following notices are for your guidance in the use of the Pathwork® name and this lecture material.

#### Trademark/Service Mark

Pathwork® is a registered service mark owned by The Pathwork Foundation, and may not be used without the express written permission of the Foundation. The Foundation may, in its sole discretion, authorize use of the Pathwork® mark by other organizations or persons, such as affiliate organizations and chapters.

#### Copyright

The copyright of the Pathwork Guide material is the sole property of The Pathwork Foundation. This lecture may be reproduced, in compliance with the Foundation Trademark, Service Mark and Copyright Policy, but the text may not be altered or abbreviated in any way, nor may the copyright, trademark, service mark, or any other notices be removed. Recipients may be charged the cost of reproduction and distribution only.

Any person or organization using The Pathwork Foundation service mark or copyrighted material is deemed to have agreed to comply with the Foundation Trademark, Service Mark and Copyright Policy. To obtain information or a copy of this policy, please contact the Foundation.