

Pathwork Lecture 30: Self-Will, Pride, and Fear

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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>Greetings in the Name of the Lord.</p> <p>I bring you blessings, my friends; blessed is this hour [i.e., <i>blessed is this time</i> <i>we now spend together in this lecture</i>].</p>
04	<p>This lecture will not be entirely understandable for those who are not familiar with the preceding ones, since this [lecture] is part of a series.</p> <p>For the benefit of those friends who are here for the first time, I should like to say again:</p> <p>It is so very difficult for some human beings to understand that such communication [of a spirit manifesting <i>or speaking through a human being</i>] is possible.</p>

by Eva Broch Pierrakos

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*Those
who do not understand
the great things that are possible in God's creation
readily use the often misunderstood word
"the subconscious"
to explain this phenomenon [i.e., the phenomenon of a spirit
manifesting or speaking through a human being].*

*I beg you, my friends,
divorce yourselves
of the preconceived idea*

- that a spirit
cannot manifest
through a human being and*
- that it is merely
the medium's*
 - subconscious, or*
 - superconscious –
whatever name you choose to give it –
that you are listening to.*

*Communication
with the spirit world
of all spheres*

- has always been possible,*
- is possible now, and*
- always will be,
provided that
the necessary conditions are met
by the human beings
who wish to establish
such communication.*

*That
in some cases
the communication
may not be genuine
does not mean
that it is always so [i.e., does not mean that such communication is never genuine].*

05

*I could give a more thorough explanation
why it would be
impossible
for a human being,
still in the cycle of incarnations,
to bring out
the knowledge I can put through
simply by
the medium
going into a trance.*

*If a human being's unconscious
were so penetrated with such knowledge
that merely going into a trance
would suffice
to bring it to the surface,
the discrepancy
between
• the trance state
and
• the normal state
would not be so strong,
my friends.*

*However,
I do not want to take up more time on this subject.*

*I simply ask you,
do not think that because
the majority of the people around you
believe this is all superstition,
• that it cannot be possible [for me to speak through a medium], and
• that they [i.e., that the majority of people around you] are absolutely right.*

*Do not believe that
it is this human being's unconscious
that talks to you tonight.*

This is not so!

06	<p><i>Now, my friends, tonight's lecture will appear at first similar to the last one, in that it will resemble a</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• very abstract and</i><i>• philosophical lecture</i> <p><i>that seems to have no bearing on your present existence.</i></p> <p><i>However, the opposite is true.</i></p> <p><i>When I continue, you will see that everything I say to you – no matter how far away it appears to be from your life – has an</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• immediate and</i><i>• direct</i> <p><i>bearing on it [i.e., a direct bearing on your present life].</i></p>
07	<p><i>In the "Pistis Sophia," on which my friend is lecturing, you have</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• a plan or</i><i>• a scheme, as you call it,</i> <p><i>where spiritual spheres are designated in various gradations.</i></p> <p><i>Immediately below</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• "The Ineffable," or</i><i>• the House of God as we call it,</i> <p><i>a sphere is shown with the name of "The Highest Lightworld."</i></p>

*In this Highest Lightworld
an infinite number of
lightforces
exist
in one vast reservoir or pool.*

What are these lightforces?

08

*The lightforces
represent
every
• divine aspect in creation and
every
• good quality or
• virtue
you can possibly think of,
each [divine aspect, good quality or virtue]
as
one particular
lightforce and
each [divine aspect, good quality or virtue]
personified
as a
• spirit or
• angel.*

*I mentioned in the last lecture
that
the twelve
• active [forces] and
the twelve
• passive forces
are also personified.*

***It is the same with
the lightforces [i.e., as the twelve active forces and twelve passive forces are
personified, so also the lightforces are personified as spirits or angels];***

representative

- spirits or***
- angels***

exist [for the lightforces]

as well as

- their [i.e., as well as the lightforces] emanations.***

The emanation

***of these forces [i.e., the emanation of these lightforces],
condensed***

in a spiritual form

of extremely fine texture,

creates

these beings [i.e., creates these spirits or angels],

and these beings [i.e., these spirits or angels]

emanate in turn

the respective lightforce.

The lightforces

gather

in a vast reservoir.

Just as

all is one

with God,

so it is

with these lightforces.

They [i.e., these lightforces]

constitute

one whole.

Yet
each individual lightforce
stands out
as something
• individual or
• particular
with
its own
different
• color,
• scent,
• tone,
and other qualities.

If I were to tell you
how many kinds of perception exist
in this high sphere,
you would not believe it,
for you have
a very limited
perceptive capacity.

The individualized forces [i.e., the individualized lightforces]
are recognizable
in this reservoir
and yet
they form
one harmonious whole.

They [i.e., the individualized lightforces]
emanate
from
• the sphere of the Highest Lightworld,
where they are concentrated,
into
• all spheres below,
in decreasing strength,
of course.

09

*Further along this plan
you will find
the "Higher or Middle Lightworld," [i.e., "below" the "Highest Lightworld"]
where
these lightforces
are gathered again,
• concentrated and
• condensed
into a slightly coarser texture
that is still
extremely fine
compared to your standards.*

*From there [i.e., from the Higher or Middle Lightworld],
they [i.e., the lightforces]
are being sent forth
into all other worlds.*

*But in this sphere, the Higher or Middle Lightworld,
• spirit beings or
• personifications
of individual lightforces
have
• their organization,
or as it is referred to in the "Pistis Sophia,"
• "the Orders."*

*• Each Order
represents
• one of these lightforces,
headed by
• the individualized spirit, and
serves
• the entire Plan of Salvation
in different gradations
as a sort of hierarchy.*

• *These Orders*
may also be designated as
• *"Choirs,"*
and are distinguished from one another
by
• *special marks,*
• *appearance of robes,*
and so on.

Each created being,
including
• *each one of you,*
• *each human being,*
belongs to
one of these particular orders
of the lightforces.

Your basic being
is part of
one of these
• *lightforces and*
• *Orders.*

In deep meditation,
if a certain degree of development has been reached,
you may
• *find out or*
• *sense*
what your
ground being
is,
which does not exclude, of course,
other
• *virtues,*
• *qualities, or*
• *talents.*

However,
there is one

- *basic,*
- *significant*

core element
in each

- *being,*
- *spirit, or*
- *person.*

Such a basic quality
may be

- *courage,*

another

- *love and*
- *kindness,*

and so on.

To have

- *courage*

does not mean that
you do not possess

- *love or*
- *the capacity to love.*

Though
the highest angel representatives
of each force
have
all
other qualities as well,

they have
one

- *basic,*
- *outstanding*

quality
that

- *strengthens and*
- *furnishes*

all other divine aspects [that they have]
rather than

- *weakening or*
- *excluding*

them [i.e., rather than weakening or excluding all other
divine aspects that they have].

	<p><i>So it may be possible for you to find out the</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• ground tone or</i><i>• marked quality of your being.</i>
10	<p><i>Since you have heard the preceding series of lectures dealing with</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• the Creation and</i><i>• the Fall,</i> <p><i>you should understand by now that all beings in Creation are perfect in one particular way.</i></p> <p><i>Also,</i></p> <p><i>if the Fall had failed to take place,</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• the lightforce and</i><i>• the divine power</i> <p><i>that every being has been endowed with would have served the purpose of complementing the perfection in other ways as well, so as to become really godlike.</i></p> <p><i>Before this state has been reached, godlikeness can only be partial.</i></p> <p><i>Once the Plan of Salvation is fulfilled, further expansion toward perfection will continue.</i></p>

*As it is now,
the Orders,
with all the many, many beings belonging to them,
are
particularly perfect
in one way.*

*This applies
even to the fallen spirits
who have kept
the ground perfection
in its original*

- nature and*
- talent*

*basically intact,
though covered up
by*

- the lower self and*

by

- all the layers of imperfection
in varying degrees of density.*

*The process of
uncovering
the ground perfection
is the path of
purification.*

*This may give some of you
good material for meditation.*

*At the present stage of your development
you need to concentrate on
finding out
what your lower self
really is.*

This [i.e., finding out what your lower self really is]

means you should

- ***find your faults and***
- ***fully realize***

their [i.e., your faults']

- ***existence,***

their

- ***significance, and***

their

- ***effect on***

• ***you and***

• ***your life.***

It is also important

at a certain stage of your work

to get to know

the special individuality

of your higher self

so as

- ***to use it [i.e., to use the special individuality of your higher self]***

for your

purification and

- ***to realize its [i.e., to realize the special individuality of your higher self's]***

particular force.

11

In a previous lecture

I spoke about

the three basic

hindrances to perfection

which apply to everyone alike:

• ***self-will,***

• ***pride, and***

• ***fear.***

Since the Fall

these three attributes [i.e., self-will, pride, and fear]

became

stronger

and stronger

in the measure to which the Fall progressed;

they [i.e., self-will, pride, and fear]

blur

your basic light.

*It is the purpose
of the path of purification
not only*

- to sense
what your basic light is,*

but also

- to realize that*
 - self-will,*
 - pride, and*
 - fear**exist in you*

and

- to find out*
 - to what degree [self-will, pride, and fear exist in you],*
 - how they interact, and*
 - how one is dependent upon the other.*

*For only
with this understanding of yourself
will you be able to overcome
the dark walls
that stand in the way
between*

- you*

and

- your basic light.*

12

*Offhand, my friends,
you might ask:*

How do

- self-will,*
- pride, and*
- fear*

connect?

*Why is one unthinkable
without the other?
For so it is, my friends.*

*If you have one [i.e., if you have either self-will, pride, or fear],
you must have all three attributes [i.e., you must have self-will,
pride, AND fear].*

*You may have one
more
• strongly
than the other, or
more
• apparent or
more
• conscious
than the other.*

*But it is
impossible
to possess
only two,
with the third
entirely missing.*

*Sincerely
endeavoring
to walk
this path of purification
and understanding
the role of
• self-will,
• pride, and
• fear*

*is certainly essential
on this path.*

*Do not believe
that there is a human being alive
who is
entirely free of
• self-will,
• pride, and
• fear.*

*Thus
my words
apply to everyone.*

*The only difference may be that
• some may have more [self-will, pride, and fear],
• some less [self-will, pride, and fear].*

*I will demonstrate this to you
in the following words.*

*They [i.e., the following words]
will be of great importance
for your self-understanding.*

13

*In the first place,
we may again clarify
that there is a distinct difference
between*

- self-will*

and

- free will.*

*To make sure that you understand it clearly in this connection,
I will repeat that
free will
can be used*

- for good*

or

- for bad;*

this is important.

*You cannot say it [i.e., you cannot say free will]
serves
only*

- good purposes,*

*for, as just said,
it [i.e., free will]
can be used for*

- evil purposes
as well.*

*However,
it is certain that
self-development
cannot be attained
without
the full use of
free will.*

*The will of God
cannot be fulfilled
unless
you use
your free will
to accept it [i.e., to accept the will of God]
of*

- *your own accord and*
- *your own choosing.*

*Free will
is the greatest gift
with which you have been endowed
and without it [i.e., without free will]
you could never attain
a godlike status.*

*However,
it [i.e., free will]
has to be distinguished from*

- *self-will,*
- *the will of*
 - *the little self or*
 - *the little ego.*

*Self-will
strives
to get what it wants,
regardless*

- *of the consequences and*
- *of the harm that may be done*
 - *to others*

and therefore ultimately also [harm that may be done]

- *to the self.*

*Only
the little ego
is too blind
to understand this [i.e., too blind to understand that self-will of the little ego may
ultimately bring harm to the self].*

Self-will

is a

- *blind and*
- *immature*

state,

*too blind to realize
that what it desires*

- *is against spiritual law and*
 - *must bring*
 - *hardship and*
 - *imprisonment*
- to the self.*

Take

- *a spiritually underdeveloped person,*
- for example,*
- *a criminal.*

Such a person

will use self-will

in a very obvious way

to serve his

*immediate seeming advantages,
disregarding*

all laws –

- *spiritual*
- as well as*
- *human.*

For

*what seems advantageous to him,
he likes to get.*

14

*Now we are
not discussing
such easily recognizable cases [i.e., the cases of criminals].*

*The average human being
does not commit*

- crimes or*
- antisocial acts,*

partly because

- he or she realizes
that that is wrong –
the sense of ethics
even of an irreligious person
is already developed enough
to desist
the desires of the lower self
that may still have such wishes –*

and partly because

- he or she
is simply too afraid
to get into conflict with his surroundings.*

*However,
we are
not discussing
the obvious outer actions
of those who are
driven by
self-will,*

*for to
none of you
would this be applicable.*

*[Rather, here] We are focusing on
the emotional currents
of self-will
within each one of you.*

*For
each unpurified being
desires,
perhaps unconsciously,
things that are*

- wrong and*
- things that are*
- against spiritual law.*

*This conflict
between*
• *the conscious desire*
and
• *the unconscious desire*
represents
the greatest handicap
in your development.

Therefore,
it is of utmost importance
that you muster the courage
• *to test your feelings,*
• *to translate them*
into
• *clear and*
• *concise*
words
so as to realize,

"Here I have a desire,
coming
from my
• *little ego and*
from my
• *self-will,*
that does
not correspond with
the other part of my nature [i.e., *does not correspond with the side of my*
nature that indeed wants to follow the will of God]
that is just as real."

15

*How does this [conflict between the desire of the self-will and the desire that part of the
soul that indeed wants to follow the will of God]
connect with fear?*

*If your self-will
is strong –
and it can be all the stronger if it is unconscious –
you must
constantly
remain in fear
that the desires of your self-will
will not be gratified.*

*Thus,
coupled with self-will
you find fear.*

*For
deep down in your heart,
you do know
that all the wishes of your self-will
can never be fulfilled.*

*They [i.e., the wishes of your self-will]
are, for the most part,
• impossible and
• unreasonable
wishes.*

*In your own particular case,
due to
• your previous lives and
• the hindrances you have put into your soul,
what you wish
cannot be fulfilled,
at least
not at this time,
unless
you discover the hindrances
so as to eliminate them.*

16	<p><i>The currents within you run in different directions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>the self-will desires very strongly something that is</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>wrong,</i>• <i>impossible, or</i>• <i>contradictory to other currents within you,</i> • <i>while at the same time you have the inner knowledge of your deeper being, the higher self that knows very well that these wishes [of the self-will or the little ego] are unfulfillable.</i> <p><i>This knowledge [that these wishes of the self-will or little ego are unfulfillable] creates fear, since the self-will is still demanding its gratification.</i></p>
17	<p><i>If you meditate on these words, my friends, you will gain a great deal more insight into</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>your soul,</i><p><i>into</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>your life, and</i><p><i>into</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>your present situation.</i></p><p><i>Again, it is not enough to listen [to these words] once to really understand them.</i></p></p></p>

If you

- *meditate over them [i.e., meditate over these words] and*
- *apply them to yourself,*

you will begin

searching within you

where you may have such wishes [of your self-will or little ego];

you will see

how the fear

comes automatically

from the desires

of the self-will.

You will thus

proceed a step further

on the ladder upward.

But

you must have the courage

to search in that direction [i.e., search in the direction of your self-will],

for only there

lies your liberation

from your own chains.

18

*Now let us turn to
pride.*

What does pride mean?

It means

- *that
your ego
is more important than
the other person's [ego],*
- *that you
desire advantages for yourself, and*
- *that you have
vanity.*

*If you feel
the humiliation of another person
less than [you feel] your own [humiliation],
you still have
too much pride.*

*And who does
not
feel that way,
my friends?*

*Who has truly
the same reaction to*

- other people's humiliation*

as to

- his own [humiliation]?*

None of you!

*If you yourself
are humiliated,
you are hurt;*

*if the other person
is humiliated in the same way,
you may feel sorry [for the other person],
but the reaction
is certainly entirely different [for these two situations of humiliation],
no matter how much you try to tell yourself
that this is not so.*

*Be honest
with yourself [in this matter of your feelings about humiliation of another
compared to your feelings about humiliation of yourself]
and this honesty
will surely do more for you
than any self-deception.*

Feelings change

- indirectly and*
- not by force,*
- nor by simply trying to tell yourself
that you feel in a way
you do not!*

	<p>Therefore, such [honest] self-appraisal [regarding your pride as seen in feelings that arise in you when you are humiliated compared to feelings in you that arise when another is humiliated]</p> <p>will be</p> <p>the best means</p> <p>to change your feelings</p> <p>gradually</p> <p>also in this respect [i.e., in respect to your pride as it relates to your reaction to humiliation of yourself compared to your reaction to the humiliation of another].</p>
19	<p>I do</p> <p>not suggest</p> <p>that you go about it [i.e., do not go about changing your feelings in matters of the humiliation of another]</p> <p>by trying to</p> <p>muster up</p> <p>the same feelings</p> <p>of hurt vanity [that you would feel if you were humiliated]</p> <p>if another human being</p> <p>is humiliated [i.e., in situations when another human being is humiliated].</p> <p>No.</p> <p>Rather,</p> <p>learn</p> <p>not to make yourself</p> <p>so important,</p> <p>for</p> <p>your little</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• pride and• ego <p>do not matter half as much</p> <p>as your feelings tell you.</p>

*If you learn
to be more detached
about this vanity of yours,
then
and only then
will you*

- have the proper sense of proportion
in comparing
yourself to others and*
- therefore have
the same reactions for*
 - others*
- as for*
 - yourself.*

*That is what is meant by
loving your brother
as you love yourself.*

*As long as
you feel differently
for your brother
than you do
for yourself,
you violate
the spiritual law of*

- justice,*

aside from the law of

- brotherhood.*

*For your reactions
are surely
not just [as long as you feel differently for your brother
than you feel for yourself].*

*You may
act
in justice,
that is true,
and that [i.e., ACTING in justice]
may be enough
for some people,
but perhaps [ACTING in justice is]
not enough
for you.*

You know that
• *your actions and*
• *even your thoughts*
are
not sufficient
to permit
the pure emanation of justice
to penetrate;

your lightforce
cannot be liberated
as long as
• *your feelings*
do not correspond to
spiritual laws.

Thus,
you are
unjust
in your feelings:

you put
yourself
on a higher plane than
your brother.

The moment your
• *vanity and*
• *pride*
assume such importance,
you are again
in constant fear,
being afraid that
the gratification of your pride
will not be granted to you
by the people around you.

*So you must
give up the desire
to put your own person
on an elevated level
above your fellow-creatures,
in an emotional sense.*

*Only in that way
will you
be free
of fear.*

20

*I do not have to go into detail
to show you
the connection
between*

- self-will*

and

- pride.*

That is too easy.

That you can do yourself.

*You may use that [i.e., you may use the discernment of the connection between
self-will and pride]
as a meditation exercise.*

*However,
do not do it [i.e., do not discern the connection between self-will and pride]
• abstractly or
• impersonally;*

*try to apply it [i.e., try to apply the connection between self-will and pride]
immediately
to yourself;*

*try to see
where you feel that way [i.e., where you feel a connection
between self-will and pride].*

*As far as the connection
between*
• *self-will*
and
• *fear,*
or
between
• *pride*
and
• *fear,*
is concerned,
I have shown it to you.

*Each single day
brings you
a number of opportunities
to observe your
feelings
in exactly this way.*

21

*Unfortunately,
you bypass
most of these opportunities for*
• *self-knowledge and*
• *purification.*

*You let them [i.e., you let these opportunities for
self-knowledge and purification]
slip by.*

*If an
unpleasant feeling
comes up in you,
you are
very quick
to put it aside.*

There will be easy excuses [for putting unpleasant feelings aside]:

the
• faults and
• imperfections
of other people
are supposed to be responsible for
your own
• disharmony and
your own
• inner conflicts.

But there are times
when you cannot find
anyone to blame.

So you
• just cover it up [i.e., you cover your unpleasant feeling up] and
• are quick with explanations [for your unpleasant feeling]:
• you are just in a bad mood;
• you do not know why you feel disturbed;
• it is a difficult life in general;
• perhaps it is even the weather.

No, my friends!

Whenever
there is something bothering you,
you will find the answer
in the light
of what I have just told you [regarding self-will, pride, and fear].

Looking at it [i.e., looking at what is bothering you]
from this point of view [i.e., from the point of view of self-will, pride, and fear],
you will
do a great deal more
for your
• self-perfection and
for your
• liberation,
my friends.

*As long as
you are caught within the snare of*

- self-will,*
- pride, and*
- fear,*

*you cannot
ever
be happy.*

*It [i.e., being happy when you are caught in self-will, pride, and fear]
is impossible.*

*You may
fight all you want,
you may
do what you want
on the
outside.*

*But [by working on the outside with your thoughts and actions]
you only remove
the symptom;
you do not
cut out
the cancer inside.*

*Think over
these words;
meditate on
them.*

*For in them [i.e., for in these words]
you have
indeed*

- a treasure
of helpful material and*
- a key
to your problems.*

22	<p><i>And now, my dear friends, I will turn to your questions and answer them to the best of my ability.</i></p> <p>QUESTION: <i>Is not the will</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>to serve God and</i>• <i>to be a better human being</i> <p><i>also selfish since this means that we become happy?</i></p>
23	<p>ANSWER: <i>This is a good question you are asking, my child, and I will answer you.</i></p> <p><i>Though some people may enter the path with such a slightly impure motive [i.e., the slightly impure and selfish motive of entering the path only in order to become a happier person], it is still better to enter it than to stay away.</i></p> <p><i>By continuing on this path, the realization must come sooner or later that you are the next fellow and the next fellow is you.</i></p>

If
 you
 become happy,
you
 must [inevitably]
 make other people
 happy.

And when I say
 happy,
I do
 not mean
 the happiness
 that you believe would be yours
 if
 the desires of
 your self-will [i.e., desires of your separate little ego, including
 not only the desires of your self-will but also the desires
 of your pride and your little ego's desire for peace and
 absence of all fear]
 were fulfilled.

[Rather,]
 I am talking about
 the greater happiness
that must be yours
 when you walk on this path
 of self-purification.

Once you have attained
 a certain height [of self-awareness and purification],
your own happiness
 will no longer be the goal.

It [i.e., your happiness]
 will be
 a means to an end.

24

I advise you

- *even before this realization [that your own happiness is no longer the goal of your work on this path]*
is yours and
- *before you can feel this way [i.e., before you can you feel that your own happiness is no longer the goal of your work on this path],*

to pray

not only for

- *the understanding of what I am saying here.*

Pray

also for

- *strength and*
- *enlightenment and*
- *everything needed to follow this path,*

not merely

- *for your own sake*

but so that

- *you may become a source of*
 - *giving and*
 - *serving.*

In essence,

this means that

the ultimate purpose [of your following this path]
is

- *not your own happiness,*
 - but*
 - *the service you*
 - *give and*
 - *are*
- to others.*

But do not

deceive yourself;

realize

how far away

your emotions

still are

from your prayer.

	<p>By</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>seeing this discrepancy [between your actual emotions and your prayer]</i> <p>and yet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>praying for that end and</i>• <i>continuing the work of</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>self-analysis and</i>• <i>self-honesty,</i> <p>one day you will feel as though you are one with every creature.</p>
25	<p>QUESTION: If our soul is taught during sleep, why do we not remember in an awakened state what our soul has learned?</p>
26	<p>ANSWER: There are many good reasons for that.</p> <p>In the first place, the reasons are the same that operate when</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>the memory</i> <i>of your previous incarnation</i> <i>is taken away</i> <i>from one incarnation to the other, or</i>• <i>the memory</i> <i>of the soul's existence in the spiritual worlds</i> <i>between incarnations</i> <i>is blotted out.</i>

	<p><i>If knowledge of</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>the existence of spirits,</i>• <i>the vast worlds that exist beyond your earth sphere and</i>• <i>the fact of reincarnation</i> <p><i>were so easily accessible,</i> <i>you could not possibly</i> <i>fulfill your life.</i></p> <p><i>It [i.e., your life]</i> <i>would be too easy.</i></p>
27	<p><i>The highest treasure of knowledge</i> <i>must be</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>fought for and</i>• <i>paid for</i> <p><i>with the price of</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>self-development and</i>• <i>victories over the lower self.</i> <p><i>No matter</i> <i>how much you have read about the subject,</i> <i>you will</i> <i>never be convinced</i> <i>if</i> <i>you have not gained</i> <i>divine enlightenment.</i></p> <p><i>Divine enlightenment</i> <i>is something you have to</i> <i>work for.</i></p> <p><i>You have to</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>pay the price [i.e., pay the price for divine enlightenment], and</i>• <i>deserve it [i.e., deserve divine enlightenment],</i> <p><i>for it [i.e., for divine enlightenment]</i> <i>is the highest gift.</i></p>

	<p><i>If knowledge of</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>your past lives and</i>• <i>the beyond</i> <p><i>were just put into your lap</i></p> <p><i>either by</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>retention of memory</i> <p><i>or [by]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>other means,</i> <p><i>there would be</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>no fight,</i> <p><i>and therefore</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>no development.</i> <p><i>It may also</i></p> <p><i>be a hindrance [to your development]</i></p> <p><i>to know certain factors</i></p> <p><i>of your previous lives.</i></p> <p><i>As long as</i></p> <p><i>you are not ripe for it [i.e., not ripe for certain knowledge] –</i></p> <p><i>and this can only happen through development –</i></p> <p><i>it may be harmful for you</i></p> <p><i>to know certain things.</i></p>
28	<p><i>During your sleep,</i></p> <p><i>when your spirit</i></p> <p><i>is in the spirit world,</i></p> <p><i>you often have insight</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>into your previous incarnations,</i>• <i>into the reasons for this present life, and</i>• <i>about what you are supposed to accomplish.</i> <p><i>Painful knowledge</i></p> <p><i>might be connected</i></p> <p><i>with it [i.e., with your previous incarnations, with reasons for this present life,</i></p> <p><i>and with what you are supposed to accomplish in this life]</i></p> <p><i>which you cannot use constructively</i></p> <p><i>at this time;</i></p> <p><i>it [i.e., this painful knowledge about previous incarnations or this current incarnation]</i></p> <p><i>may</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>depress you and</i>• <i>hold you back from your development.</i>

God
*has given you the opportunity
to start on a clean slate,
without any burden.*

*According to
your merits on this earth sphere,
you will receive*

- *instruction,*
- *guidance, and*
- *advice*

in the spirit world

when

- *your body
is*

asleep

and

- *your spirit
is*

free;

this knowledge [from the spirit world]

- *remains in
your unconscious and*
- *can affect you
indirectly*

when you are awake,

even though you do not know

why you

- *react in a certain way,*

why you

- *make certain decisions,
and so on.*

Consciously,

you have to fight

for everything,

- *for knowledge, as well as*
- *for spiritual development.*

By fighting, of course,

I mean

fighting

your lower self.

	<p><i>Also,</i> <i>if someone is already developed to a certain extent,</i> <i>during the hours of sleep</i> <i>he or she</i> <i>may fulfill tasks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>with other spirits,</i> <i>who are out of the body, or</i>• <i>with other human beings</i> <i>who are also sleeping.</i> <p><i>This helps</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>others</i> <p><i>and therefore [helps]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>the entire Plan of Salvation.</i> <p><i>But there</i> <i>must not be</i> <i>clear remembering</i> <i>unless</i> <i>the circumstances are exceptional.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>This may happen too.</i></p>
29	<p>QUESTION: <i>In what form</i> <i>do spirits</i> <i>who are still undeveloped</i> <i>see higher spirits?</i></p>
30	<p>ANSWER: <i>When</i> <i>undeveloped spirits</i> <i>come into contact with</i> <i>higher spirits,</i> <i>they [i.e., undeveloped spirits]</i> <i>do not see them [i.e., do not see higher spirits]</i> <i>as</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>angels or</i>• <i>light creatures.</i> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>That would be much too easy.</i></p>

Again
*the same law [i.e., the law that applies to knowledge from dreams
and about previous incarnations]*
holds true here.

If higher spirits
go into
lower spheres,
which they do

- *at certain intervals regularly and*
- *according to plan,*

they [i.e., the higher spirits]

- *change their fluids and*
- *the light does not show.*

For it would be
much too easy
for these creatures [i.e., for these undeveloped spirits in the lower spheres]
to accept
God's word
because
an obvious angel
has spoken it.

How many of you, for instance,
say

- *"If I could*
see God, or
- *if I could*
see an angel,
I would believe."

But
you do
not listen
to the words I speak.

It is the same
with these spirits [i.e., the undeveloped spirits in the lower spheres].

There is not an iota of difference.

They [i.e., the undeveloped spirits in the lower spheres]

have

- *to learn,*

just as you

have

- *to learn and*
- *to distinguish*

between

right

and

wrong,

between

truth

and

untruth

- *by*

truth's

own merit and

- *not because*

the person [imparting knowledge]

seems to be an authority

and therefore easy to believe.

How many people

accept something

said by a respected authority

and yet

reject the very same words

if spoken by someone whom they look down on!

That [i.e., accepting something only if said by a respected authority]

does not mean

they are developed.

Development means

- *independence,*
- *the ability to select*

- *truth*

from

- *untruth.*

*Therefore
the spirits in the lower spheres
do not see the angels
as they really are.*

*Higher spirits
appear to them [i.e., appear to the spirits in the lower spheres]
just like one of their own kind [i.e. like spirits appear in the lower spheres]
and they speak to them in that way.*

*It is then left up to
the spirits themselves [i.e., the spirits in the lower spheres themselves]
to decide whether
they want to believe what is communicated to them
or not.*

*They must accept what they hear
for its own value,
and therefore
it is good
that they believe these ideas
come to them
from someone on their own level [rather than from
someone of a higher level].*

31

*The same holds true
for humanity;
many spirits,
in varying degrees of development,
are incarnated on this earth;
yet*

- human shape or*
- outer appearance*

*does not give an indication
of the entity's development.*

*This is the only possible way
for you to become
truly*

- free and*
- independent.*

*However,
there are certain exceptions in this respect too.*

*Not that there is
ever
an exception
to the law of the necessity of
independent
• selection and
• recognition,
but at certain times
light
penetrates
to some degree
into the world of darkness.*

*Then
the angels of God
show themselves.*

*There are good reasons for that too,
but it does
not happen
for the purpose of
teaching the truth
to creatures in the lower spheres.*

Be blessed.

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