

# Pathwork Lecture 44: The Forces of Love, Eros, and Sex

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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><b><i>Greetings in the Name of the Lord.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>I bring you blessings, my dearest friends.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Blessed is this hour [i.e., blessed is this time we now spend together in this lecture].</i></b></p>
04	<p><b><i>Tonight I would like to discuss three particular forces in the universe:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b><i>• the love force as it manifests between the sexes,</i></b></li><li><b><i>• the erotic force, and</i></b></li><li><b><i>• the sex force.</i></b></li></ul>

by Eva Broch Pierrakos

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*These are  
three distinctly different*  
• *principles or*  
• *forces*  
*that manifest differently*  
*on every plane,*  
*from the*  
• *highest*  
*to the*  
• *lowest.*

*Humanity*  
*has always confused*  
*these three principles.*

*In fact,*  
*it is little known*  
• *that*  
*three*  
*separate*  
*forces*  
*exist and*  
• *what*  
*the differences between them are.*

*There is*  
*so much confusion about this*  
*that it will be*  
*quite useful for my friends*  
*to hear*  
*what the reality is.*

05

*The erotic force*

- *is one of the*  
*most potent forces*  
*in existence and*
- *has tremendous*
  - *momentum and*
  - *impact.*

*It [i.e., the erotic force]  
is supposed to serve as  
the bridge  
between*

- sex

*and*

- love,

*yet it rarely does.*

*In a  
spiritually highly developed person,  
the erotic force  
carries the entity  
from the*

- erotic experience,  
which in itself  
is of short duration,

*into the*

- permanent state  
of pure love.

*However,  
even the  
strong momentum  
of the erotic force  
carries  
the soul*

- just so far

*and*

- no farther.

*It [i.e., the strong momentum of the erotic force]  
is bound to  
dissolve*

*if the personality  
does not  
learn to love,  
by cultivating  
all  
the*

- qualities and
- requirements  
necessary for  
true love.

*Only when  
love  
has been learned  
does  
the spark of the erotic force  
remain  
alive.*

*By itself,  
without love,  
the erotic force  
burns itself out.*

*This of course  
is the trouble with  
marriage.*

*Since most people  
are  
incapable of  
• pure love,  
they  
are also  
incapable of attaining  
• ideal marriage [i.e., the marriage in which the spark  
of the erotic force remains fully alive].*

06

*• Eros  
seems in many ways  
similar to  
• love.*

*It [i.e., eros]  
brings forth [natural spontaneous] impulses  
a human being  
would not have otherwise:  
impulses of  
• unselfishness and  
• affection  
he or she might have been  
incapable of before.*

*This [i.e., this automatic spontaneous impulse of  
unselfishness or affection of eros]*

*is why*  
• *eros*

*is so very often  
confused with*  
• *love.*

*But*  
*eros [because of its potent automatic spontaneous nature]*  
*is just as often  
confused with  
the sex instinct  
which,  
like eros,  
also manifests  
as a  
great [spontaneous] urge.*

07

*Now, my friends,  
I would like to show you what  
the spiritual*  
• *meaning and*  
• *purpose*  
*of*  
*the erotic force*  
*is,*  
*particularly*  
*as far as humanity is concerned.*

*Without [the experience of] eros,  
many people  
would  
never  
experience  
the great*  
• *feeling and*  
• *beauty*  
*that is contained in  
real love.*

*[Without the experience of eros]*  
**They [i.e., many people]**  
**would**  
**never**  
**get the**  
**taste of it [i.e., the taste of real love]**  
**and the**  
**yearning for [real] love**  
**would remain**  
**deeply submerged**  
**in their souls.**

**Their**  
**• fear**  
**of love**  
**would remain**  
**stronger than**  
**their**  
**• desire**  
**[for love].**

08

**Eros**  
**is the nearest thing to**  
**love**  
**the undeveloped spirit**  
**can experience.**

**It [i.e., eros]**  
**lifts the soul**  
**out of**  
**• sluggishness,**  
**out of mere**  
**• contentment and**  
**• vegetation.**

**It [i.e. eros]**  
**causes the soul**  
**• to surge,**  
**• to go out of itself.**

**When**  
**this [erotic] force**  
**comes upon**  
**even**  
**the most undeveloped people**

**they [i.e., these most undeveloped people]**  
**become able to**  
**surpass themselves.**

*[For example:]*

- **Even a criminal**  
**will**  
**temporarily**  
**feel,**  
**at least toward one person,**  
**a goodness**  
**he has never known.**

- **The utterly selfish person**  
**will,**  
**while this**  
**feeling**  
**lasts,**  
**have unselfish impulses.**

- **Lazy people**  
**will get out of**  
**their inertia.**

- **The routine-bound person**  
**will**
  - **naturally and**
  - **without effort****get rid of**  
**static habits.**

**The erotic force**  
**will**  
**lift a person**  
**out of**  
**separateness,**  
**be it only for a short time.**

*Eros*  
gives  
• *the soul*  
a foretaste  
of unity and  
teaches  
• *the fearful psyche*  
the longing  
for it [i.e., for the longing for unity].

*The more strongly*  
*one has*  
*experienced*  
*eros,*  
*the less contentment*  
*will the soul find*  
*in the pseudo-security*  
*of*  
*separateness.*

*Even*  
*an otherwise*  
*thoroughly self-centered person*  
*may be able to*  
*make a sacrifice*  
*during the*  
*experience*  
*of eros.*

*So you see, my friends,*  
*eros*  
*enables people*  
*to do*  
• *things*  
*they are*  
*disinclined to do*  
*otherwise [i.e., disinclined to do without eros];*  
• *things*  
*that are closely linked*  
*with love.*

*It is easy to see why*  
• *eros*  
*is so often confused with*  
• *love.*



09

*How then is*

- *eros*

*different from*

- *love?*

*Love*

*is a*

*permanent state  
in the soul.*

*Love*

*can only exist*

*if the foundation for it  
is prepared  
through*

- *development and*
- *purification.*

*Love*

*does not*

*come and go at random;*

*eros*

*does*

*[i.e., eros does come and go at random].*

*Eros*

*hits*

*with sudden force,  
often taking a person*

- *unaware and*
- *even unwilling  
to go through  
the experience.*

	<p><i>Only if the soul</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• is prepared to love and</i></li><li><i>• has built the foundation for it [i.e., built a foundation for love]</i></li></ul> <p><i>will eros be the bridge to the love that is manifest between</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• a man</i></li></ul> <p><i>and</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• a woman.</i></li></ul>
10	<p><i>Thus you can see how important the erotic force is.</i></p> <p><i>Without the erotic force</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• hitting them and</i></li><li><i>• getting them out of their rut,</i></li></ul> <p><i>many human beings would never be ready for a more conscious search for the breaking down of their own walls of separation.</i></p>

*The erotic  
experience*

- *puts the seed  
into  
the soul and*

- *makes it [i.e., makes the soul]  
long for  
unity,  
which is  
the great aim  
in the Plan of Salvation.*

*As long as  
the soul  
is separate,*

- *loneliness and*
- *unhappiness  
must be its lot.*

*The erotic  
experience  
enables*

*the personality  
to long for  
union  
with at least  
one other being.*

*In the heights  
of the  
spirit world,*

*union  
exists  
among*

- *all beings –*

*and thus  
with*

- *God.*

***In the earth sphere,  
the erotic force  
is a  
propelling power  
regardless of whether or not  
its [i.e., whether or not the erotic force's]  
real meaning  
is understood.***

***This is so [i.e., It is so that the erotic force is a propelling power]  
even though***

***it [i.e., the erotic force]  
is often***

- ***misused and***
- ***enjoyed for its own sake,  
while it lasts.***

***[When the erotic force is misused,]***

***It [i.e., the erotic force]***

***is not utilized  
to cultivate***

***love in the soul,***

***so it [i.e., so the erotic force]  
peters out.***

***Nevertheless,***

***its effect [i.e., though the erotic force itself peters out because  
it is not utilized to cultivate love in the soul,  
nevertheless the effect of the erotic force]***

***will inevitably  
remain in the soul.***

11

***Eros***

- ***comes to people  
suddenly  
in certain stages of their lives,***
- ***even to those  
who are afraid  
of the apparent risk  
of adventuring  
away from  
separateness.***

*People who are  
afraid of*

- *their emotions and*

*afraid of*

- *life as such*

*will often  
do anything in their power  
to avoid –*

- *subconsciously and*
- *ignorantly –*

*the great experience  
of unity.*

*Although this fear [i.e., this fear of emotions and life as such, this fear of  
the experience of unity]  
exists in  
many human beings,*

*there are few indeed  
who have  
not  
experienced  
some opening in the soul  
where eros could touch them.*

*For the  
fear-ridden soul  
that resists  
the experience [of unity],*

*this [i.e., eros]  
is  
good medicine  
regardless of the fact that*

- *sorrow and*
- *loss*

*may follow  
due to  
other psychological factors.*

**However,**  
**there are also those**  
**who are**  
**over-emotional,**  
**and**  
**although they may know**  
**other fears of life,**  
**they are**  
**not**  
**afraid of**  
**this particular experience [i.e., they are not afraid of the experience**  
**of unity made possible by eros].**

**In fact,**  
**the beauty of it [i.e., the beauty of unity experienced in eros]**  
**is a**  
**great temptation**  
**to them and**  
**and therefore**  
**they hunt greedily**  
**for it [i.e., they hunt greedily for the beauty of unity**  
**experienced in eros].**

**They look for**  
**one subject after another,**  
**emotionally**  
**too ignorant**  
**to understand**  
**the deep meaning of**  
**Eros.**

**They**  
**• are**  
**unwilling**  
**to learn**  
**pure love, and**  
**• simply use the erotic force**  
**for their pleasure**

**and when it [i.e., when the erotic force with one subject]**  
**is worn out [as it must without love]**  
**they hunt elsewhere [i.e., they hunt for other possible subjects with**  
**whom to experience the erotic force anew].**

*This [i.e., using the erotic force for pleasure only rather than as a bridge to love]  
is an abuse  
and cannot continue  
without ill effects.*

*Such a personality  
will have to  
make amends for the abuse –  
even if it [i.e., even if the abuse of the erotic force]  
was done in ignorance.*

*In the same vein,  
the over-fearful coward  
will have to make up for  
trying to cheat life  
by*

- hiding from eros*

*and thus*

- withholding from the soul  
a medicine,  
valuable  
if used properly.*

*Most people in this [latter] category  
have  
a vulnerable point  
somewhere in their soul  
through which  
eros can enter.*

*There are also a few  
who have built  
such a tight wall of*

- fear and*
- pride*

*around their souls  
that they*

- avoid  
this part of life experience entirely*

*and so*

- shortchange  
their own development.*

*This fear [of the erotic force]  
might exist*

- *because in a former life  
they had an unhappy experience with eros,*

*or perhaps*

- *because the soul has  
greedily abused  
the beauty of the erotic force  
without building it into love.*

*In either case,  
the personality  
may [now] have chosen  
to be more careful.*

*[However,]  
If this decision  
is too*

- *rigid and*
- *stringent,*

*the opposite extreme  
will follow.*

*In the  
next incarnation  
circumstances  
will be chosen in such a way  
that a balance is established  
until  
the soul  
reaches  
a harmonious state  
wherein there are  
no more extremes.*



	<p><i>This balancing in future incarnations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>always applies to</i></li><li>• <i>all aspects of the personality.</i></li></ul> <p><i>In order to approach this harmony to some extent at least,</i></p> <p><i>the proper balance between</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>reason,</i></li><li>• <i>emotion, and</i></li><li>• <i>will</i></li></ul> <p><i>has to be achieved.</i></p>
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>The erotic experience often mingles with</i></li><li>• <i>the sexual urge,</i></li></ul> <p><i>but</i></p> <p><i>it does not always have to be that way.</i></p>

*These three forces –*  
• *love,*  
• *eros, and*  
• *sex –*  
*often appear*  
• *completely separately,*  
*while sometimes two mingle,*  
*such as*  
• *eros and sex, or*  
  
• *eros and love*  
*to the extent the soul is capable of love, or*  
  
• *sex and a semblance of love.*

*Only in the ideal case do all three forces mingle harmoniously.*

13

*The sex force is the creative force on any level of existence.*

*In the highest spheres [i.e., in the highest level of existence], the [very] same sex force creates*  
*spiritual*  
• *life,*  
*spiritual*  
• *ideas, and*  
*spiritual*  
• *concepts and*  
• *principles.*

	<p><i>On the lower planes [i.e., the lower levels of existence], the</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>pure and unspiritualized sex force creates</i></li><li>• <i>life as it manifests in that particular sphere;</i></li></ul> <p><i>it [i.e., the pure and unspiritualized sex force on the lower planes] creates</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>the outer shell or vehicle of the entity destined to live in that sphere.</i></li></ul>
14	<p><i>The pure sex force is utterly selfish.</i></p> <p><i>Sex without</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>eros and without love</i></li></ul> <p><i>is referred to as</i></p> <p><i>animalistic.</i></p> <p><i>Pure sex [i.e., sex without eros and without love] exists</i></p> <p><i>in all living creatures:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>animals,</i></li><li>• <i>plants, and</i></li><li>• <i>minerals.</i></li></ul>

*Eros*  
begins  
with the stage of development  
where  
the soul  
is incarnated  
as a  
human being.

*And*  
pure love  
is to be found  
in the  
higher spiritual realms.

*This does*  
not mean  
that  
• eros and  
• sex  
no longer exist  
in beings of  
higher development,

*but*  
rather [means]  
that  
all three [i.e., sex, eros, and love]  
• blend in harmoniously,  
• are refined, and  
• become  
less  
and less  
selfish.

*Nor*  
do I mean  
that  
a human being  
should  
not  
try  
to achieve  
a harmonious blend  
of all three forces.

15

*In rare cases,  
• eros alone,  
without  
• sex and  
• love,  
exists  
for a limited time.*

*This is usually referred to as  
platonic love.*

*But sooner or later  
with the somewhat healthy person,  
• eros  
and  
• sex  
will mingle.*

*[Here]  
The sex force,  
instead of being  
suppressed,  
is taken up  
by the  
erotic force  
and  
both [the sex force and the erotic force]  
flow  
in  
one current.*

*The more  
the three forces  
remain  
separate,  
the unhealthier  
the personality is.*

16

*Another frequent combination,  
particularly in  
relationships of long standing,  
is the coexistence of*

- *genuine love*

*with*

- *sex,*

*but without*

- *eros.*

*Although  
love  
cannot  
be perfect  
unless  
all three forces [i.e., unless the sex, erotic, and love forces]  
blend together,*  
*there is  
a certain amount of [love in the form of]*

- *affection,*
- *companionship,*
- *fondness,*
- *mutual respect,*

*and a*

- *sex-relationship*

*that is  
crudely sexual  
without  
the erotic spark  
which evaporated  
some time ago.*

*When eros  
is missing,  
the sexual relationship  
must  
eventually  
suffer.*

*Now this is  
the problem  
with most marriages,  
my friends.*

*There is hardly a human being  
who is not puzzled  
by the question of  
what to do  
to maintain the spark in the relationship  
which seems to  
evaporate  
the more*

- *habit and*
- *familiarity with one another  
sets in.*

*You may not have  
posed the question  
in terms of  
three distinct forces,  
yet you*

- *know and*
- *sense*

*that  
something goes out of a marriage  
that was present at the beginning;*

*that spark  
is actually  
eros.*

*You*

- *find yourself  
in a  
vicious circle and*
- *think that  
marriage  
is a  
hopeless proposition.*

*No, my friends,  
it is not,*

*even if  
you cannot  
as yet  
attain  
the ideal.*

17

*In the  
ideal partnership  
of love between two people  
all three forces  
have to be represented.*

*With love  
you do not seem to have much difficulty,  
for in most cases  
one would not marry  
if there did not exist  
at least  
the willingness  
to love.*

*I will not discuss at this point  
the extreme cases  
where this is not so [i.e., cases where two people marry  
without at least a willingness to love].*

*[Rather, here]*

*I am focusing on a relationship  
where*

- the choice [to marry]  
is a mature one*
- and yet*
  - the partners cannot  
get around the pitfall  
of becoming bound by*
    - time and*
    - habit,*
  - because  
elusive eros  
has disappeared.*



*With sex  
it is very much  
the same [as with love].*

*The sex force  
is present  
in most healthy human beings  
and may only  
begin to fade –  
particularly with women –  
when eros has left.*

*Men may then [i.e., Men may, when eros has  
left the woman,]  
seek eros elsewhere.*

*For the sexual relationship  
must eventually suffer  
unless  
eros is maintained.*

18

*How can you  
keep eros?*

*That is  
the big question,  
my dear ones.*

*Eros  
can be maintained  
only if  
it is used  
as a bridge  
to  
true partnership  
in love  
in the highest sense.*

*How is this done?*

19

*Let us first look for  
the main element  
in the erotic force.*

*When you analyze it [i.e., When you analyze the erotic force],  
you will find that it [i.e., you will find that the main element in the erotic force]  
is*

- *the adventure,*
- *the search for  
the knowledge of  
the other soul.*

*This desire [for the knowledge of the other soul]  
lives in  
every created spirit.*

*The inherent  
life-force [within every created spirit]  
must  
finally  
bring the entity  
out of its separation.*

*Eros  
strengthens  
the curiosity  
to know  
the other being.*

*As long as*

- *there is  
something new  
to find  
in the other soul and*

*as long as*

- *you reveal yourself,*

*eros  
will live.*

*The moment  
you believe  
you*

- *have found  
all  
there is to find [in the other soul], and*
- *have revealed  
all  
there is to reveal [about yourself],*

*eros  
will leave.*

*It is as simple as that  
with eros.*

*But  
where your great error  
comes in  
is that  
you believe  
there is  
a limit to  
the revealing  
of any soul,  
• yours or  
• another's.*

*When a certain point of  
usually quite superficial  
revelation  
is reached,*

*you are under the impression  
that  
this is all there is,  
and  
you settle down  
to a placid life  
without further searching.*

20

***Eros***  
***has carried you this far***  
***with its***  
***strong impact.***

***But after this [initial] point,***  
***your will***  
***to***

- further search***  
***the unlimited depths***  
***of the other person and***
- voluntarily***
  - reveal and***
  - share******your own***  
***inward search***

***determines***  
***whether [or not]***  
***you have***  
***used eros***  
***as a bridge***  
***to love.***

***This [i.e., your will to further search the other and further reveal to the other what***  
***you find out about yourself in your own inward search],***

***in turn,***  
***is always***  
***determined by***  
***your will to***  
***learn***  
***how to love.***

***Only in this way [i.e., only by your will to learn how love by your further searching***  
***of the other and by further revealing what you***  
***find out about yourself in your own inward search]***

***will you***  
***maintain***  
***the spark of eros***  
***in your love.***

*Only in this way [i.e., only by your will to learn how love by your further searching of the other and by further revealing what you find out about yourself in your own inward search]*

*will you  
continue to*

- find  
the other and*
- let yourself  
be found.*

*There is  
no limit [to this discovery of the other, and to revealing of yourself],  
for the soul is*

- endless and*
- eternal:  
a whole lifetime  
would not suffice  
to know it.*

*There can  
never*

*be a point  
when*

- you know the other soul entirely, nor*

*when*

- you are known entirely.*

*The soul  
is alive,  
and  
nothing that is alive  
remains static.*

*It [i.e., the soul]  
has the capacity  
to reveal  
even deeper layers  
that already exist.*

*The soul is also  
in constant*

- change and*
- movement*

*as anything spiritual  
is [in constant change and movement]  
by its very nature.*

*Spirit  
means  
life  
and  
life  
means  
change.*

*Since  
soul  
is spirit [and spirit means life and life means change],  
the soul  
can  
never  
be known utterly [i.e., since the soul is in constant change,  
there is always something new to know about the soul].*

*If people had  
the wisdom,  
they would*

- realize that [there is always something new to know about the soul]*

*and*

- make of marriage  
the marvelous journey  
of adventure  
it is supposed to be,  
forever finding  
new vistas,*

*instead of*

- simply being carried  
as far as you are taken  
by the first momentum of eros.*

*You should*

- use this potent momentum of eros  
as the initial thrust  
it is, and*
- then find through it [i.e., find through this initial thrust of eros]  
the urge to go on further  
under your own steam.*

*Then you will have  
brought eros  
into  
true love  
in marriage.*

21

*Marriage*  
*is intended by God*  
*for human beings and*  
*its [i.e., marriage's]*  
*divine purpose*  
*is not merely*  
*procreation.*

*That [i.e., procreation]*  
*is only*  
*one detail.*

*The spiritual idea*  
*of marriage*  
*is*

- *to enable the soul*  
*to reveal itself and*
- *to be constantly on the search*  
*for the other*
- *to discover*  
*forever new vistas*  
*of the other being.*

*The more*  
*this happens,*

- *the happier*  
*the marriage will be,*
- *the more*
  - *firmly and*
  - *safely**it will be rooted, and*
- *the less*  
*it will be in danger*  
*of an unhappy ending.*

*Then*  
*it [i.e., then the marriage]*  
*will fulfill*  
*its spiritual purpose.*

22

*In practice, however,  
marriage  
hardly ever  
works that way.*

*You reach  
a certain state of*

- *familiarity and*
- *habit*

*and  
you  
think  
you know  
the other.*

*It does not even  
occur to you  
that  
the other  
does not know you  
by any means.*

*He or she  
may know*

- *certain facets  
of your being,*

*but*

- *that  
is all.*

*This search  
for*

- *the other being,*

*as well as  
for*

- *self-revelation,*

*requires  
inner*

- *activity and*
- *alertness.*



*But since people  
are often  
tempted into*

- *inner*
  - *inactivity,*

*while*

- *outer*
  - *activity*
    - may be*
      - all the stronger*
        - as an overcompensation,*

*they are*

- *being lured*
  - to sink into*
    - a state of*
      - restfulness,*
- *cherishing*
  - the delusion*
    - of already*
      - knowing each other*
        - fully.*

*This is the pitfall.*

*It is*

- *the beginning of the end*
  - at worst, or*
- *at best*
  - a compromise*
    - leaving you*
      - with a*
        - *gnawing,*
        - *unfulfilled*
          - longing.*

*At this point*

- the relationship*
  - *turns static.*

*It is*

- *no longer alive*

*even though*

- it may have*
  - *some very pleasant features.*

**Habit**  
**is**  
**a great temptress,**  
  
**pulling one toward**  
**• sluggishness and**  
**• inertia,**  
**so that one**  
**does not**  
**have to**  
**• try and**  
**• work or**  
**• be alert**  
**any more.**

23

**Two people**  
**may arrange**  
**an apparently satisfactory relationship,**  
  
**and as the years go by**  
**they face**  
**two possibilities.**  
  
**The first [possibility]**  
**is that**  
**either**  
**• one**  
**or**  
**• both**  
**partners**  
**become**  
**• openly and**  
**• consciously**  
**dissatisfied.**

*[One or both partners become dissatisfied]*

**For**

**the soul  
needs**

- **to surge ahead,**
- **to find and**
- **to be found,**

**so as to**

**dissolve separateness,  
regardless of  
how much**

**the other side of the personality**

- **fears  
union**

**and**

- **is tempted by  
inertia.**

**This dissatisfaction  
is either**

- **conscious –**

**although in most instances**

**the real reason for it [i.e., the real reason for the dissatisfaction]  
is ignored –**

**or it is**

- **unconscious.**

**In either case,**

- **the dissatisfaction**

**is stronger than**

- **the temptation of  
the comfort  
of**

- **inertia and**
- **sluggishness.**

	<p><i>Then [since the dissatisfaction is stronger than the temptation of the comfort of inertia of staying in the marriage] the marriage will be disrupted</i></p> <p><i>and one or both partners will delude themselves into thinking that with a new partner it will be different, particularly after eros has perhaps struck again.</i></p> <p><i>As long as this principle [i.e., the principle that eros is kept alive by bridging over to love through the process of evermore discovery and revealing of souls] is not understood, a person may go from one partnership to another, sustaining feelings only as long as eros is at work.</i></p>
24	<p><i>The second possibility [when dissatisfaction in a marriage arises] is that the temptation of a semblance of peace is stronger [than living with the pain of dissatisfaction].</i></p> <p><i>Then the partners may</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• remain together and</i></li><li><i>may certainly</i></li><li><i>• fulfill something together,</i></li></ul> <p><i>but a great unfulfilled need will always lurk in their souls.</i></p>

*Since*  
*men are by nature more*  

- *active and*
- *adventurous,*

*they*  
*tend to be*  

- *polygamous and*

*are therefore*  

- *more tempted by infidelity*  
*than women.*

*Thus you can also understand*  
*what the underlying motive*  
*for men's inclination*  
*to be unfaithful is.*

*Women*  
*tend much more*  

- *to be sluggish and*

*are therefore*  

- *better prepared*  
*to compromise.*

*This is why they*  
*tend to be*  

- *monogamous.*

*Of course,*  
*there are exceptions,*  
*in both sexes.*

*Such infidelity*  
*is often*  
*as puzzling to the*  

- *active partner [i.e., the one who leaves the marriage]*

  
*as to the*  

- *"victim" [i.e., the one who is left behind by the active partner*  
*who leaves the marriage]*

	<p><i>They [i.e., the active partners who leaves the marriage] do not understand themselves.</i></p> <p><i>[Hence] The unfaithful one [who leaves the marriage] may suffer just as much as the one whose trust has been betrayed.</i></p>
25	<p><i>In the situation where compromise is chosen [i.e., both partners choose to stay in the marriage, even though they are dissatisfied in it], both people stagnate, at least in one very important aspect of their soul development.</i></p> <p><i>[Of course] They find refuge in the steady comfort of their relationship.</i></p> <p><i>They may even believe that they are happy in it [i.e., happy in their relationship], and this may be true to some degree.</i></p>

	<p><i>The advantages [in such a comfortable relationship] of</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>friendship,</i></li><li>• <i>companionship,</i></li><li>• <i>mutual respect, and</i></li><li>• <i>a pleasant life together</i> <i>with a well-established routine</i></li></ul> <p><i>outweigh</i> <i>the unrest of the soul,</i></p> <p><i>and</i> <i>the partners</i> <i>may have enough discipline</i> <i>to remain faithful</i> <i>to one another.</i></p> <p><i>Yet</i> <i>an important element</i> <i>of their relationship</i> <i>is missing:</i></p> <p><i>the revealing of</i> <i>soul to soul</i> <i>as much as possible.</i></p>
26	<p><i>Only when</i> <i>two people</i> <i>do this [i.e., do the mutual work of revealing to each other soul-to-soul]</i></p> <p><i>can they</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>be purified together</i></li></ul> <p><i>and thus</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>help each other.</i></li></ul>

*Two developed souls,  
who  
have a knowledge of purification  
in their subconscious,  
though they may ignore  
the various steps  
of these [Pathwork] teachings,*

*can yet  
fulfill one another  
by*

- revealing themselves,*

*by*

- searching the depths  
of the other's soul.*

*Thus  
what is in each soul  
will emerge  
into  
their conscious minds,  
and [with increased consciousness]  
purification  
will take place.*

*Then  
the life-spark  
is maintained  
so that  
the relationship  
can never*

- stagnate and*
- degenerate into a dead end.*



	<p><i>For you who</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>are on this path [i.e., Pathwork], and</i></li><li>• <i>follow the various steps of these teachings,</i></li></ul> <p><i>it will be easier</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>to overcome the</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>pitfalls and</i></li><li>• <i>dangers</i></li></ul><i>of the marital relationship and</i></li><li>• <i>to repair damage</i> <i>that has occurred unwittingly.</i></li></ul>
27	<p><i>Should you find yourself</i> <i>alone,</i> <i>you may,</i> <i>with</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>this knowledge and</i></li><li>• <i>this truth,</i></li></ul> <p><i>repair the damage</i> <i>that you have done</i> <i>to your own soul</i> <i>by harboring</i> <i>wrong concepts</i> <i>in your unconscious.</i></p> <p><i>You may discover</i> <i>your fear</i> <i>of the</i> <i>great adventurous journey with another,</i> <i>which will explain</i> <i>why you are alone.</i></p> <p><i>This understanding [of why you are alone]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>should</i> <i>prove helpful and</i></li><li>• <i>may even</i> <i>enable your emotions</i> <i>to change sufficiently</i> <i>so that</i> <i>your outer life</i> <i>may change too [i.e., in your outer life you may manifest</i> <i>a satisfying relationship with another].</i></li></ul>

*This [i.e., changing sufficiently so that you manifest a satisfying relationship] depends on you.*

*Whoever is unwilling to take the risk of this great adventure cannot succeed in the greatest venture humanity knows – marriage.*

28

*In this way [i.e., by exploring each other's soul and by revealing each other's soul to the other],*

*my dear friends,  
you not only*

- maintain eros,*

*that vibrating life force,  
but you also*

- transform it [i.e., transform eros, that vibrating life force,] into true love.*

*Only in a true partnership of*

- love and*
- eros*

*can you discover in your partner new levels of being you have not heretofore perceived.*

*And [in this true partnership of love and eros] you yourself will be purified also by*

- putting away your pride and*
- revealing yourself as you really are.*

***In this way [i.e., in this true partnership of love and eros],  
your relationship  
will always  
be new,  
regardless of  
how well  
you  
think  
you know each other  
already.***

***All  
masks  
must fall,  
not only  
• the superficial [masks]  
but  
• the real [and much deeper masks],  
which you may not even have been aware of.***

***Then  
your love  
will remain  
alive.***

***It [i.e., your love]  
will never  
• be static;***

***it [i.e., your love]  
will never  
• stagnate.***

***You  
will never  
have to  
search elsewhere [i.e., you will never  
have to search for another partner].***

*There is  
so much to*

- *see and*
- *discover*

*in this land of  
the other soul*  
*[the soul]*

- *you have chosen,*

*[the soul]*

- *whom you continue to respect*

*but*

- *in whom you seem  
to miss  
the life spark  
that once  
brought you together.*

*You will  
never  
have to be afraid  
of losing  
the love  
of your beloved;*

*this fear [of losing the love of your beloved]  
will have justification  
only  
if you refrain from  
risking the journey  
of self-revelation  
together [i.e., if you refrain from risking walking and  
sharing the path of self-development together].*

29

*This, my friends,  
is marriage  
in its true sense  
and  
the only way  
it can be  
the glory  
it is supposed to be.*

*Each of you  
should  
think deeply  
about  
whether you  
are afraid  
to leave the four walls  
of your own separateness.*

*Some of my friends  
are unaware  
that  
to stay separate  
is almost  
a conscious wish.*

*With many of you  
it is this way:  
you desire marriage  
because*

- one part of you  
yearns for it –*

*and also  
because*

- you do not want to be alone.*

*Quite*

- superficial and*
- vain*

*reasons  
may be added  
to explain  
the deep yearning [for marriage]  
within your soul.*

	<p><b><i>But</i></b> <b><i>aside from</i></b> • <b><i>this yearning [for marriage] and</i></b> <b><i>aside from the</i></b> • <b><i>superficial and</i></b> • <b><i>selfish</i></b> <b><i>motives</i></b> <b><i>of your unfulfilled desire</i></b> <b><i>for partnership,</i></b></p> <p><b><i>there must also be [a counter force opposing marriage, which is]</i></b> • <b><i>an unwillingness</i></b> <b><i>to risk the</i></b> • <b><i>journey and</i></b> • <b><i>adventure</i></b> <b><i>of revealing yourself.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>An integral part of life</i></b> <b><i>remains to be fulfilled by you –</i></b> <b><i>if not in</i></b> • <b><i>this life,</i></b> <b><i>then in</i></b> • <b><i>future lives.</i></b></p>
30	<p><b><i>Only when</i></b> <b><i>you meet</i></b> • <b><i>love,</i></b> • <b><i>life, and</i></b> • <b><i>the other being</i></b> <b><i>in such readiness</i></b> <b><i>will you be able</i></b> <b><i>to bestow</i></b> <b><i>the greatest gift</i></b> <b><i>on your beloved,</i></b> <b><i>namely</i></b> <b><i>your true self.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>And then</i></b> <b><i>you must</i></b> <b><i>inevitably</i></b> <b><i>receive the same gift</i></b> <b><i>from</i></b> <b><i>your beloved.</i></b></p>

*But to do that [i.e., to give and receive the same gift, one's true self,  
to and from your beloved],*

*a certain*

- *emotional and*
  - *spiritual*
- maturity*

*has to exist [in both of you].*

*If this maturity*

*is present [in you],*

*you will*

*intuitively*

*choose*

*the right partner,*

*one who has, in essence,*

*the same*

- *maturity and*

- *readiness to embark on this journey*

*[as you yourself have].*

*The choice of a partner*

*who is unwilling [to embark on this journey with you]*

*comes out of*

*the hidden fear [in you]*

*of undertaking the journey*

*yourself.*

*You*

*magnetically*

*draw*

- *people and*

- *situations*

*toward you*

*which correspond to*

*your*

*subconscious*

- *desires and*

- *fears.*

*You know that.*

31

*Humanity, on the whole,  
is very far away from  
this ideal [marriage],  
but that  
does not change*

- *the idea or*
- *the ideal.*

*In the meantime  
you have to learn  
to make the best of it.*

*And you  
who are fortunate enough  
to be on this path [called Pathwork]  
can learn much  
wherever  
you stand,*

*be it only  
in understanding  
why  
you cannot realize  
the happiness  
that a part of your soul  
yearns for.*

*To discover that [i.e., to discover why you cannot realize  
the happiness you long for]*

- *is already  
a great deal and*
- *will enable you  
in*
  - *this life or*
- *future lives  
to get nearer to  
the realization  
of this idea.*



*Whatever  
your situation is,  
whether  
you*

- *have a partner or*
- *are alone,*

*search your heart  
and it will furnish you  
the answer to your conflict.*

*The answer [i.e., the answer to your conflict in this matter of marriage]  
must come  
from within yourself,*

*and in all probability  
it [i.e., the answer to your conflict in this matter of marriage]  
will relate to  
your own*

- *fear,*
- *unwillingness,*

*and your*

- *ignorance of the facts.*

*Search  
and  
you will know.*

*Understand  
that  
God's purpose  
in the  
partnership of love*

*is*

- *the complete  
mutual revelation  
of one soul to another –*

*not just*

- *a partial  
revelation.*

32	<p><i>Physical revelation is easy for many.</i></p> <p><i>Emotionally you share to a certain degree – usually as far as eros carries you.</i></p> <p><i>But then you lock the door, and that is the moment when your troubles begin.</i></p>
33	<p><i>There are many who are not willing to reveal anything.</i></p> <p><i>They want to remain</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• alone and</i></li><li><i>• aloof.</i></li></ul> <p><i>They will not touch the experience of</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• revealing themselves and</i></li><li><i>of</i></li><li><i>• finding the soul of the other person.</i></li></ul> <p><i>They avoid this in every way they can.</i></p>

34

*My dear ones,  
once again:  
understand  
how important  
the erotic principle is  
in your sphere.*

*It [i.e., the erotic principle]  
helps many  
who may be*

- *unwilling and*
- *unprepared*

*for the love experience.*

*It [i.e., the erotic principle]  
is what you call*

- *"falling in love," or*
- *"romance."*

*Through  
eros  
the personality  
gets a taste  
of what  
the ideal love  
could be.*

*As I said before,  
many  
use this*

- *feeling of happiness [in eros]*
- *carelessly and*
- *greedily,*

*never passing  
the threshold into  
true love.*

*True love  
demands  
much more of people  
in a  
spiritual sense.*

*If they  
do not  
meet this demand [required by true love],  
they  
forfeit  
the goal  
for which  
their soul strives.*

- *This extreme  
of  
• hunting for romance*

*is as wrong as  
• the other [extreme],  
where  
• not even  
the potent force of eros  
can enter  
the tightly locked door.*

*But in most cases,  
when the door  
is not too tightly bolted,  
eros  
does come to you  
at certain stages of your life.*

*Whether you can then  
use  
• eros  
as a bridge to  
• love  
depends on  
you.*

	<p><i>It [i.e., using eros as a bridge to love] depends on your</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• development,</i></li></ul> <p><i>your</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• willingness,</i></li></ul> <p><i>your</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• courage,</i></li></ul> <p><i>your</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• humility, and</i></li></ul> <p><i>your</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• ability to reveal yourself.</i></li></ul>
35	<p><i>Are there any questions in connection with this subject, my dear friends?</i></p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b> <i>Yes.</i></p> <p><i>It is so difficult for a woman to talk to a man.</i></p> <p><i>Men don't answer when one tries to get into a conversation touching the emotional understanding.</i></p> <p><i>That [i.e., a conversation touching emotional understanding] makes it very, very difficult for the woman.</i></p>
36	<p><b>ANSWER:</b> <i>Here is a great error, my dear.</i></p>

*But let us first establish one fact  
that should be well understood.*

- *Woman is by nature  
more  
emotionally  
inclined.*

- *Man is by nature  
more  
spiritually,  
or on a lower level,  
more  
intellectually  
inclined.*

*By that  
I do not mean  
that he has to be  
what you call  
an intellectual.*

*It is simply that usually  
the reasoning faculty  
is stronger in men.*

*Because of this  
the revealing of  
his emotions  
is a  
very difficult step  
for a man.*

*In this  
a woman  
can help him.*

*The man  
will help  
the woman  
in other ways.*

*The mistake  
you make  
is in  
thinking that*

- *revelation and*
- *the meeting of souls*

*is brought about  
by talking.*

*Oh, it [i.e., talking]  
may be*

- *a temporary crutch,*

*it may be*

- *one detail;*

*or rather*  
*it may be*

- *simply a tool,*
- *a means of expressing*  
*certain facets.*

*But this is all [talking is].*

*It is  
not  
in the talking  
that you*

- *find the other soul or*

*that you*

- *reveal yourself,*

  
*though this [i.e., though talking]  
may be  
a part of it.*

*It is in the  
being*

*that this*

- *whole and*
- *basic*

*attitude  
is determined.*

37

*It is  
the woman  
who is stronger  
emotionally.*

*For her  
it is usually easier  
to muster the courage to*

- meet*  
*soul to soul*

*and*

- touch*  
*the deepest core  
of longing  
that is also  
in man.*

*If she can*

- use her  
intuition and*
- reach  
that [intuitive] part  
of her partner,*

*he will  
respond  
provided  
he has  
the maturity.*

*He must  
respond.*

*Whether  
this response  
comes occasionally  
through  
a conversation  
or not,  
is not so important.*

*It is not a question of  
whether  
a verbal discussion  
serves  
in reaching  
the other soul.*



**Certainly,**  
• **speaking**  
**is**  
**a part of it,**

**together with**  
• **all**  
**the other faculties.**

**But**  
**the ability**  
**to speak**  
**about things** [including speaking about emotions and feelings]  
**is not**  
**the determining factor.**

**First**  
**the inner basis** [of truly and deeply feeling all your feelings]  
**has to be established.**

**Then**  
**you will be**  
**flexible enough**  
**to use**  
**all**  
**the faculties**  
**God has given you.**

**To**  
• **find and**  
• **meet**  
**the other soul**  
**means**  
**going into**  
**the state**  
**of inner being** [including truly and deeply  
*feeling all feelings*];

**the doing** [including speaking]  
**is only**  
• **an incidental result,**  
• **a mere detail**  
**which is part of**  
**the outer manifestation.**

**Is that clear?**

38

**QUESTION:**

*Yes, it is clear.*

*And I think it is wonderful.*

*In other words*

*it is the task  
of the woman  
to find  
the other soul?*

**ANSWER:**

*It may often be*

*that it is easier  
for the woman  
to take  
the first necessary steps [of self revelation]  
after  
eros  
is no longer capable  
of maintaining  
its own momentum.*

**But**

*both  
need to have  
the basic willingness  
to go on the journey together.*

*As stated before,*

*the woman  
often finds it easier*

- to reveal herself,*
- to let the emotions come out.*

*The mature woman*

*who is  
earnestly willing  
to undertake the adventure  
of true marriage*

*will have the*

- mature and*
- healthy*

*instinct  
to find the right partner.*

	<p><i>The same applies to the man, of course.</i></p>
39	<p><i>Once this willingness [to undertake the adventure of true marriage] exists in both, either one may lead the way.</i></p> <p><i>It does not make any difference who starts.</i></p> <p><i>It may often be the woman,</i></p> <p><i>but it may also be the man at times.</i></p> <p><i>Whoever starts it, a time will come when the other one will also</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• lead and</i></li><li><i>• help.</i></li></ul> <p><i>In a relationship that is</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• alive,</i></li><li><i>• healthy, and</i></li><li><i>• flexible,</i></li></ul> <p><i>it [i.e., the leading, initiating, helping] must</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• alternate and</i></li><li><i>• change constantly.</i></li></ul>

*At any given time,  
whoever is*

- *the stronger,*
- *the leader,*

*will help  
in the liberation  
of the other.*

*For*

- *this soul-revelation*

*is*

- *a liberation –*
  - *liberating  
the other soul  
from  
the prison of loneliness, and*
  - *liberating  
the self.*

*This prison [i.e., this prison of loneliness]  
may even  
appear  
comfortable  
if you*

- *live and*
- *stagnate*

*in it long enough.*

*One should  
not wait  
for the other to start.*

*Whoever  
is more*

- *mature and*
- *courageous*

*at a particular instant*

- *will start, and*
- *will thus raise  
the maturity  
of the other  
which may then  
surpass his or her own.*

	<p><i>Thus</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>the helper becomes the helped;</i></li><li>• <i>the liberator becomes the liberated.</i></li></ul>
40	<p><b>QUESTION:</b> <i>When you talk about the revelation of a soul to</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>another,</i></li></ul> <p><i>do you mean that, on a higher level, this is the way the soul reveals itself to</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>God?</i></li></ul>
41	<p><b>ANSWER:</b> <i>It [i.e., the soul revealing itself to another and the soul revealing itself to God] is the same thing.</i></p> <p><i>But before you can truly reveal yourself to</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>God,</i></li></ul> <p><i>you have to learn to reveal yourself to</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>another beloved human being.</i></li></ul> <p><i>And when you do that, you reveal yourself to God too.</i></p>

*Many people  
want to  
start  
with revealing themselves  
to the personal God.*

*But actually,  
deep in their hearts,  
such revelation  
to God  
is only  
a subterfuge  
because  
it is*

- *abstract and*
- *remote.*

*[In this action of revealing oneself only to the personal God]  
No other human being  
can*

- *see or*
- *hear*

*what they reveal.*

*They are still alone.*

*[In this action of revealing oneself only to the personal God]  
One does  
not have to do  
the one thing that*

- *seems*  
*so risky,*
- *requires*  
*so much humility*

*and thus*

- *threatens to be*  
*humiliating.*

	<p><i>By revealing yourself</i> to • <i>another human being,</i></p> <p><i>you accomplish so much</i> <i>that cannot be accomplished</i> <i>by revelation</i> to • <i>God</i> • <i>who knows you anyway, and</i> • <i>who really does not need</i> <i>your revelation.</i></p>
42	<p><i>When you</i> • <i>find</i> <i>the other soul</i> <i>and</i> • <i>meet</i> <i>it [i.e., meet the other soul],</i></p> <p><i>you fulfill</i> <i>your destiny.</i></p> <p><i>When you</i> <i>find</i> <i>another</i> • <i>soul,</i> <i>you also</i> <i>find</i> <i>another</i> • <i>particle of God,</i></p> <p><i>and if you</i> <i>reveal</i> • <i>your own soul,</i> <i>you</i> <i>reveal</i> • <i>a particle of God</i> <i>and</i> <i>give</i> • <i>something divine</i> <i>to another person.</i></p>

*When eros  
comes to you,  
it will  
lift you up  
far enough  
so that  
you will*

- sense and*
- know*

*• what it is in you  
that longs for  
this experience and*

- what is  
your true self,  
which is  
longing to reveal itself.*

*Without eros,  
you are  
merely aware of  
the lazy outer layers.*

43

*Do not  
avoid eros  
when  
it wants to come to you.*

*If you understand  
the spiritual idea  
behind it [i.e., the spiritual idea behind eros],  
you will  
use it [i.e., you will use eros]  
wisely.*



**God will then** [i.e., God will, when you do not avoid eros but use it wisely,]  
**be able to**  
• **lead you**  
**and**  
• **enable you**  
**to make the best of**  
**helping**  
• **another being and**  
• **yourself**  
**on the way to**  
**true love,**  
**of which**  
**purification**  
**must be**  
**an integral part.**

**Although**  
**your purification work**  
• **through**  
**a deeply committed relationship**

**manifests differently**  
**than it does**  
• **in the [purification] work on this path** [i.e., Pathwork],

**it** [i.e., purification work through a deeply committed relationship]  
**will help you**  
**toward a purification**  
**of the same order** [as the work on this path called Pathwork].

44

**QUESTION:**  
**Is it possible for a soul to be so rich**  
**that it can reveal itself to more than one soul?**

**ANSWER:**  
**My dear friend, do you say that facetiously?**

**QUESTION:**  
**No, I do not. I am asking whether polygamy**  
**is within the scheme of spiritual law.**

45

**ANSWER:**

**No, it [i.e., polygamy]  
certainly  
is not [within the scheme of spiritual law].**

**And when someone thinks  
it [i.e., thinks polygamy]  
may be  
within the scheme of spiritual development,  
that is  
a subterfuge.**

**[In the situation you mention – polygamy]  
The personality  
is looking for  
the right partner.**

**Either  
the person is  
too immature  
to have found the right partner,  
or  
the right partner is there  
and  
the polygamous person  
is simply carried away  
by eros' momentum,  
never lifting this force up  
into the volitional love  
[– love] that demands  
• overcoming and  
• working  
in order to pass  
the threshold [from eros to pure love]  
I mentioned before.**

46

***In cases like this [i.e., cases of the polygamous personality],  
the one  
with an adventurous personality  
is***

- ***looking  
and looking,***
- ***always finding  
another part  
of a being,***
- ***always  
revealing himself or herself***
  - ***[but] only so far  
and no further, or  
perhaps***
  - ***each time revealing  
another facet  
of his or her personality [to each different partner].***

***However,  
when it comes to  
the inner nucleus,  
the door is shut.***

***[Hence, for this relationship, the revealing goes only so deep,  
never reaching the inner nucleus, and then is stopped, and]***

***Eros then  
departs [that relationship]  
and  
a new search  
is started.***

***Each time  
it [i.e., each new relationship]  
is a disappointment  
that can only be understood  
when you grasp these truths.***

47

*Raw sexual instinct  
also enters into  
the longing for  
this great journey,  
but  
sexual satisfaction  
begins to suffer  
if the relationship  
is not kept on the level  
I show you here.*

*It [i.e., raw sexual satisfaction]  
is, in fact,  
inevitably  
of short duration.*

*There is  
no richness  
in revealing oneself  
to many.*

*In such cases,  
one either  
• reveals  
the same wares  
all over again  
to new partners,*

*or, as I said before, one  
• displays  
different facets  
of one's personality [to each partner].*

*The more partners  
you try to share yourself with,  
the less  
you give to each.*

*That is  
inevitably so.*

*It cannot be different.*

48	<p><b>QUESTION:</b> <i>Certain people believe that they can</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>cut out</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>sex and</i></li><li>• <i>eros and</i></li><li>• <i>the desire</i></li></ul></li></ul> <p><i>for a partner</i></p> <p><i>and</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>live completely for</i></li><li>• <i>love</i></li></ul> <p><i>of humanity [as a whole].</i></p> <p><i>Do you think it is possible that man or woman can swear off this part of life [i.e., swear off sex, eros, and the desire for a partner]?</i></p>
49	<p><b>ANSWER:</b> <i>It is</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>possible,</i></li></ul> <p><i>but it is certainly not</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>healthy or</i></li><li>• <i>honest.</i></li></ul> <p><i>I might say that there is perhaps one person in ten million who may have such a task.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>That may be possible.</i></p> <p><i>It may be in the karma for a particular soul who</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>is already developed this far,</i></li><li>• <i>has gone through the true partnership experience, and</i></li><li>• <i>comes for a specific mission.</i></li></ul>

*There may also be  
certain karmic debts  
which have to be paid off.*

*In most cases –  
and here  
I can safely generalize –  
avoidance of  
partnership  
is  
• unhealthy.*

*It [i.e., avoidance of partnership]  
is  
• an escape.*

*The real reason [a person avoids the experience of partnership]  
is  
fear of  
• love,  
fear of  
• the life experience,*

*but  
the fearful renunciation [i.e., but the fearful renunciation of  
the experience of partnership]  
is rationalized  
as a sacrifice.*

*To anyone who would come to me  
with such a problem,  
I would say:*

*Examine yourself.*

- Go below the surface layers  
of your conscious*
    - reasoning and*
    - explanations*
- for your attitude  
in this respect [i.e., your explanations in respect to  
your attitude about renouncing the  
experience of partnership in a true marriage].*

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Try to find out whether you fear</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>love and</i></li><li>• <i>disappointment.</i></li></ul></li> <li>• <i>Isn't it more comfortable to</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>just live for yourself and</i></li><li>• <i>have no difficulties?</i></li></ul></li> <li>• <i>Isn't really this [i.e., Isn't your fear of love and disappointment, your comfort in living for yourself with no difficulties]</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>what you feel deep inside and</i></li><li>• <i>what you want to cover up with other reasons?</i></li></ul></li> <li>• <i>The great humanitarian work you want to do may be for a worthy cause, indeed, but do you really think one excludes the other?</i></li> <li>• <i>Wouldn't it be much more likely that the great task you have taken upon yourself would be better fulfilled if you learned personal love too?</i></li></ul>
50	<p><i>If all these questions were truthfully answered, the person would be bound to see that he or she is escaping [i.e., escaping life and love by renouncing personal love in a true marriage].</i></p>

*Personal*

- *love and*
- *fulfillment*

*is man's and woman's  
destiny in most cases,  
for*

*so much can be learned  
in personal love  
that cannot be attained  
in any other way.*

*And to form a*

- *durable and*
- *solid*

*relationship  
in a marriage  
is the greatest victory  
a human being  
can achieve,*

*for it is  
one of the most difficult things there are,  
as you can well see  
in your world.*

*This life experience [in a true marriage]  
will bring the soul  
closer to God  
than  
lukewarm good deeds.*



51

**QUESTION:**

*I was going to ask a question in connection with my previous one:*

*Celibacy*

*is supposed to be  
a highly spiritualized form of development  
in certain religious sects.*

*On the other hand,*

*polygamy  
is also recognized  
in some religions –  
the Mormons, for instance.*

*I understand what you said,*

*but how do you justify  
these [two extreme] attitudes  
on the part of people  
who are supposed to look for  
unity  
with God?*

52

**ANSWER:**

*There is  
human error  
in every religion.*

*In one religion  
it may be  
one kind of error,*

*in other religions  
another.*

*Here you simply have  
two extremes.*

	<p><i>When such</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>dogmas or</i></li><li>• <i>rules</i></li></ul> <p><i>come into existence</i> <i>in the various religions,</i> <i>whether at one extreme or another,</i></p> <p><i>it is always a</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>rationalization and</i></li><li>• <i>subterfuge</i></li></ul> <p><i>to which</i> <i>the individual soul</i> <i>constantly resorts.</i></p> <p><i>This [rationalization and subterfuge]</i> <i>is an attempt</i> <i>to explain away [by rationalizations and subterfuges]</i> <i>the counter-currents</i> <i>of the</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>fearful [in the case of celibacy] or</i></li><li>• <i>greedy [in the case of polygamy]</i></li></ul> <p><i>soul</i></p> <p><i>with</i> <i>good motives [i.e., the “good” motive of celibacy</i> <i>to explain away the fear of life and love in the fearful soul</i> <i>of the celibate person, and the “good” motive of polygamy to</i> <i>rationalize the greedy soul of the polygamous person].</i></p>
53	<p><i>There is</i> <i>a common belief</i> <i>that</i> <i>anything pertaining to</i> <i>sex</i> <i>is</i> <i>sinful.</i></p> <p><i>The sex instinct</i> <i>arises</i> <i>in the infant.</i></p>

	<p><i>The more immature the creature,</i></p> <p><i>the more sexuality is separated from love,</i></p> <p><i>and therefore [the more immature the creature] the more selfish it [i.e., the more selfish sexuality of the immature creature] is.</i></p> <p><i>Anything without love is "sinful," if you want to use this word.</i></p> <p><i>Nothing that is coupled with love is</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• wrong -- or</i></li><li><i>• sinful.</i></li></ul>
54	<p><i>There is no such thing as</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• a force,</i></li><li><i>• a principle, or</i></li><li><i>• an idea</i></li></ul> <p><i>that is in itself sinful – whether</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• sex or</i></li><li><i>• anything else.</i></li></ul>

55

*In the growing child  
who is naturally  
immature,  
the sex drive  
will first  
manifest  
selfishly.*

*Only*  
• *if and*  
• *when*  
*the whole personality*  
• *grows and*  
• *matures*  
*harmoniously*  
*will sex*  
*become integrated*  
*with*  
*love.*

*Out of*  
*ignorance,*  
*humanity*  
*has long believed*  
*that*  
*sex*  
*as such*  
*is sinful.*

*[For this reason]*  
*It [i.e., sex]*  
*was kept hidden,*  
*and therefore*  
*this [sexual] part*  
*of the personality*  
*could not grow up [with the other parts of the personality].*

*Nothing*  
*that remains*  
*in hiding*  
*can*  
*grow;*  
*you*  
*know that.*

*Therefore,  
even in many grownups,  
sex  
remains*

- *childish and*
- *separate  
from love.*

*And this, in turn,  
led humanity  
to believe  
more and more  
that*

- *sex  
is a sin and  
that*
- *the truly spiritual person  
must  
abstain from it.*

*Thus  
one of those oft-mentioned  
vicious circles  
came into existence.*

56

*Because of  
the belief  
that  
sex  
was  
sinful,*

*the [sex] instinct  
could not*

- *grow and*
- *meld with  
the love force.*

*Consequently,  
sex  
in fact  
often is*

- *selfish and*
- *loveless,*
- *raw and*
- *animalistic.*

*If people would realize –  
and they are beginning to do so increasingly –  
that*

- *the sex instinct  
is as*
- *natural and*
- *God-given*
- as*
- *any other universal force*
- *and  
in itself*
- *not  
more sinful  
than  
any other existing force,*

*they would then  
break  
this vicious circle*

*and more human beings  
would  
let their  
sex drives*

- *mature and*
- *mingle  
with*
- *love – and  
with*
- *eros,  
for that matter.*

57

*How many people exist  
for whom  
sex  
is  
completely separate  
from  
love!*

*They  
not only  
• suffer from  
bad conscience  
when  
the sex urge  
manifests,*

*but they also  
• find themselves  
in the position of  
being unable  
to handle  
sexual feelings  
with the person  
they really  
love.*

*This occurs  
quite often  
in some measure,  
although  
it does seem  
extreme.*

*Because of  
• these distorted conditions and  
• this vicious circle,  
humanity  
came to believe  
that you  
cannot find God  
when you respond to  
your sex urges.*

*This [i.e., the belief that you cannot find God when you respond to your sex urges] is all wrong;*

*you cannot  
kill off something  
that is  
alive.*

*You can only hide it [i.e., only hide something that is alive] so that  
it will come out  
in other ways  
which may be  
much more harmful.*

*Only in  
the very rarest cases  
does  
the sex force  
really become  
sublimated  
so as to make  
this creative force [i.e., to make this sex force]  
manifest  
in other realms.*

*Sublimation  
in its real sense  
can never occur  
when there is*

- fear and*
- escape*

*involved,  
as is the case with  
most human beings [in regards to sexuality].*

*Does that answer your question?*

**QUESTIONER:**  
*Perfectly,  
thank you.*



58

**QUESTION:**

*If two young people*  
• *fall in love and*  
• *marry*  
*and*  
*they*  
• *are not well matched and*  
*they*  
• *don't understand each other,*  
*is it possible*  
*that these two people*  
*could go on this journey together*  
*and have a good marriage?*

**ANSWER:**

*[Yes,]*  
*If both*  
*are willing to*  
• *learn love*  
*for one another and*  
• *gain maturity*  
*together.*

*Even where*  
*an immature choice*  
*was made,*  
*it could still become*  
*a successful marriage,*

*but*  
*only if*  
*both*  
• *are willing and*  
• *are clearly aware of*  
*what marriage*  
*is supposed to be.*

*If both*  
*lack the*  
• *will and*  
• *sense of responsibility*  
*for that,*  
*they will not have the desire*  
*to make such a journey together.*

59

**QUESTION:**  
*How does  
friendship  
between two people  
fit into  
this picture?*

**ANSWER:**  
*Friendship  
is  
brotherly love.*

*Such friendship  
can also exist  
between man and woman.*

*Eros  
may want to sneak in,  
but*

- *reason and*
- *will*

*can still direct the way  
in which  
the feelings take their course.*

- *Discretion, and*
- *a healthy balance*  
*between*
  - *reason,*
  - *emotion, and*
  - *will*

*are necessary  
to prevent  
the feelings  
from going into  
an improper channel.*

60

**QUESTION:**

*Is divorce  
against spiritual law?*

**ANSWER:**

*Not necessarily.*

*We do not have  
fixed rules  
like that.*

*There are cases  
when  
divorce  
is*

- *an easy way out,*
- *a mere escape.*

*There are other cases  
when  
divorce  
is*

- *reasonable*

*because*

- *the choice  
to marry  
was made in  
immaturity and*

- *both  
partners  
lack the desire  
to fulfill  
the responsibility  
of marriage  
in its  
true sense.*

*If only one  
is willing –  
or neither –  
divorce  
is better than*

- *staying together and*
- *making a farce out of marriage.*

*Unless  
both  
are willing  
to take this journey  
together,  
it is better  
to break clean  
than  
to let one  
prevent the growth  
of the other.*

*That [i.e., one preventing the growth of the other by staying in the marriage],  
of course,  
happens.*

*It is better [however]  
to terminate  
a mistake  
than  
to remain indefinitely  
in it  
without finding  
an effective remedy.*

61

*One should not, however,  
leave a marriage  
lightly.*

*Even though it [i.e., even though the marriage]*

- was a mistake and*
- does not work,*

*one should*

- try to find the reasons and*
- do one's very best to*
  - search out*
  - and perhaps*
  - get over*
  - the hurdles*
  - that are in the way.*

*Since they [i.e., since the hurdles that are in the way of a good marriage]  
are due to  
inner mistakes,  
the partners  
could try  
to make the best of it,  
if both  
are in any way willing.*

*One can  
learn a lot  
from one's  
• past and  
• present  
mistakes.*

*To generalize  
that  
divorce  
is wrong  
in any case  
is just as incorrect  
as to say that  
it [i.e., divorce]  
is always right.*

*One should certainly  
do one's best,  
even if  
the marriage  
is not  
the ideal experience  
that I discussed tonight.*

*Few people  
are  
• ready and  
• mature enough  
for it [i.e., for the ideal marriage experience].*

	<p><i>You can make yourself ready by trying to</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• make the best of your past mistakes and</i></li><li><i>• learn from them.</i></li></ul>
62	<p><i>My dearest friends, think carefully about what I have said.</i></p> <p><i>There is much food for thought in what I told you,</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• for each of you here, and</i></li><li><i>• for all those who will read my words.</i></li></ul> <p><i>There is not a single person who cannot learn something from them.</i></p>
63	<p><i>I want to close this lecture with the assurance to all of you that we in the spirit world are</i></p> <p><i>deeply grateful to God for your</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• good efforts, for your</i></li><li><i>• growth.</i></li></ul> <p><i>It [i.e., your growth] is</i></p> <p><i>our greatest</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• joy and</i></li></ul> <p><i>our greatest</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• happiness.</i></li></ul>

*And so, my dear ones,  
receive the blessings of the Lord again;*

*may your hearts  
be filled  
by this wonderful strength  
coming to you  
from the world of*

- light and*
- truth.*

*Go*

- in*
  - peace and*
- in*
  - happiness,*

*my dear ones,  
each one of you.*

*Be in God!*

***Note: In the original 1996 edit, Paragraphs 28 and 29 were duplicated and inserted between Paragraph 26 and 27. In the above version, this duplication was removed. This change aligns with the paragraph sequencing in the unedited version. For questions, contact Gary Vollbracht.***

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