## Pathwork Lecture 152: Connection Between the Ego and the Universal Power

1996 Edition, Original Given May 7, 1967

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

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

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

Gary Vollbracht

$\P$	Content
03	
	Greetings,
	my dearest friends.
	May this lecture
	give you
	renewed
	• insight and
	• strength,
	so that your attempts
	to find yourself –
	• who
	you are,
	• where
	you belong,
	and
	• how to
	fulfill yourself –
	become a little easier.

```
May you find
                   a new shaft of light
                       through these words
                           by truly opening up to
                               new aspects of ideas
                                  you have perhaps
                                       • heard before
                                  but that have
                                       • not as yet become
                                         personally
                                              experienced
                                                 truth
                                                     for you.
04
               The
                   • meaningfulness and
                   • fulfillment
                        of one's life
                           depend,
                                  in the last analysis,
                               entirely on
                                  the relationship
                                       between
                                          • your ego
                                       and
                                          • the universal life principle –
                                          • the real self
                                              as we also call it.
              If this relationship [i.e., If the relationship between your ego and the real self]
                   is balanced,
              everything
                   falls into place.
              All these lectures
                   deal with this topic, in one way or another,
                       although I always try to discuss it
                           in different ways
                               in order to help you
                                  finally
                                       experience
                                          the truth of these words.
```

05 Let us try to define again • what the universal life principle [i.e., what the real self] is and • how it [i.e., how the universal life principle or real self] manifests in you. **The universal life principle** [or the real self] is • life itself. *It* [i.e., The universal life principle or the real self] is • eternal consciousness in its deepest and • highest sense. It [i.e., The universal life principle or the real self] is • eternal movement and • pleasure supreme. Since it [i.e., Since the universal life principle or the real self] is • life, it [i.e., The universal life principle or the real self] cannot • die. *It* [i.e., The universal life principle or the real self] is the essence of all that • breathes, • moves, • vibrates.

```
It [i.e., The universal life principle or the real self]
                    knows all,
                        for it [i.e., for the universal life principle or the real self]
                           constantly
                                • creates and
                                • perpetuates
                                   itself,
                                        because
                                           it [i.e., because the universal life principle
                                                                               or the real self]
                                                cannot be untrue
                                                   to its own nature.
06
               Every
                    • individual
                        consciousness
                 is
                    • universal
                        consciousness -
                 not just
                    • a part of it [i.e., individual consciousness is not just a part of
                                                               universal consciousness],
                        for a part implies only a little -
               but wherever consciousness exists,
                 it is
                    • the original
                        consciousness.
               This
                    • original
                        consciousness,
                   • creative life principle,
                        takes various forms.
```

```
When in the process of
    individualization
         an entity
            passes the point of remembering
                its connection with
                    its origin,
a disconnection occurs.
[In the process of individualization, after an entity passes
                        the point of remembering its connection with its origin]
    The particular consciousness [i.e., The particular consciousness
                                               of the individuating entity]
         continues
            • to exist and
            • to contain
                the universal consciousness,
    but it [i.e., but the particular consciousness of the individuating entity]
         becomes
            oblivious to
                its
                    • own nature,
                its
                    • laws, and
                its
                    • potentials.
This, in short,
    is the state
         of
            human consciousness
                as a whole.
```

```
07
               When you begin
                   to become aware of
                        the life principle [i.e., or begin to become aware of the real self],
               you discover
                   that
                        it [i.e., you discover that the life principle or the real self]
                           has always been there
                   but
                        you have not noticed it [not noticed the life principle or the real self]
                           because
                               vou were
                                   under the illusion of
                                       existing
                                           separately [i.e., the illusion of existing separately from
                                                               the life principle or the real self].
               It is therefore
                   not entirely accurate
                        to state that
                           the universal consciousness [or the universal life principle or
                                                                                      the real self]
                                "manifests."
               It would be
                   more [nearly] correct
                        to say that you begin
                           to notice it [i.e., that you begin to notice the universal consciousness,
                                       or the universal life principle, or the real self].
               You may notice
                   the life principle's [or the universal consciousness's or the real self's]
                        ever-present
                           power
                                   • autonomous consciousness
                                or as
                                   • energy.
```

```
The
                   separated
                        ego-personality
                          possesses both [i.e., both autonomous consciousness and energy],
              but
                   • the ego intelligence
              is by far inferior to
                   • the universal intelligence [i.e., the real-self intelligence]
                        whether or not
                           you can
                               • recognize it [i.e. recognize the real-self intelligence]
                               • put it to use.
               The same applies
                   to the energy [i.e., The ego energy is by far inferior to the real-self energy
                                              whether or not you can recognize and put to
                                              use the real-self energy].
08
                   • Consciousness
              and
                   energy
                        are not
                           separate aspects of
                               universal life;
              they [i.e., consciousness and energy]
                   are
                        one.
              But some people
                   tend to be
                       more receptive to
                           • one or
                           • the other
                               of them [i.e., more receptive to either consciousness or energy].
              Both [i.e., Both consciousness and energy]
                   are
                        experienced
                           as part of
                               one's self-realization.
```

```
09
              One of
                   the universal life principle's [or the real self's]
                        basic characteristics,
                           whether expressed
                               as
                                  • autonomous consciousness
                               or as
                                  • energy,
                                       is that it [i.e. is that the universal life principle or real self,
                                                      whether expressed as autonomous
                                                      consciousness or as energy]
                                          is spontaneous.
              It [i.e. The universal life principle or real self, whether expressed as autonomous
                                                      consciousness or as energy]
                   cannot possibly reveal itself
                        through
                           • a laborious process or
                           • a
                               • cramped,
                               • overconcentrated
                                  state.
              Its [i.e. The universal life principle's or real self's]
                   manifestation [whether expressed as autonomous
                                                      consciousness or as energy]
                        is always an
                           indirect
                               result
                                  of effort.
              It [i.e. The universal life principle's or real self's manifestation, whether
                                       expressed as autonomous consciousness or as energy]
                   occurs
                        when it is
                           least expected.
              By "indirect"
                   I mean that you must, of course,
                        make efforts.
```

```
You must
                  overcome resistance
                       in order to
                          • face yourself in truth,
                          • admit your
                               • problems and
                               • shortcomings, and
                          • shed your illusions.
                               This
                                  does require
                                      a great deal of effort.
10
              You must summon
                  all the
                       • strength and
                       • courage
                          you can muster
                              at all times.
              But the effort
                  needs to be expended
                       • for the sake
                           of
                              • seeing the truth about oneself,
                              • giving up a specific illusion,
                              • overcoming a barrier to
                                  wanting to be
                                      • constructive
                                    rather than [wanting to be]
                                      • destructive,
                  and
                       • not for
                          an as yet theoretical process
                              called
                                  self-realization
                                      that promises to
                                         feel
                                             good.
```

```
If self-realization
                   is arduously

    forced and

                        • looked for,
               it [i.e., self-realization]
                   cannot come.
              It [i.e., Self-realization]
                   comes
                        as a byproduct, as it were,
               although it [i.e., although self-realization]
                     is
                        all
                           that you can ever
                                wish to attain.
11
              Each step toward
                   seeing the truth
                        in the self,
                           with
                                a genuine desire
                                   for constructive participation
                                        in the creative process of life,
                                           frees
                                               the self.
               This [i.e., Seeing the truth in the self with a genuine desire for constructive
                        participation in the creative process of life and thereby freeing the self]
                   is how
                        the spontaneous processes
                           begin.
```

```
They [i.e., The spontaneous processes]
                    are
                       never
                           consciously
                               volitional.
              Hence,
                   the greater
                       the fear
                            of
                               • the unknown,
                               • letting go,
                               • involuntary processes
                                  in one's own body,
                   the less possibility is there
                        of
                           experiencing
                               the spontaneous life principle in the self [i.e., or of experiencing
                                                             the spontaneous life of the real self].
12
               The life principle [i.e. or the real self]
                   may take the form of
                        a previously unimaginable wisdom
                           • in solving one's
                               personal problems or
                           • in cultivating one's
                               creative talents.
              Or it [i.e., Or the universal life principle or the real self]
                   may manifest [, whether expressed as autonomous consciousness or as energy,]
                       as a new vibrant way of
                           • experiencing life,
                           • giving a new flavor
                               to all one is
                                  • doing and
                                  • seeing.
```

```
The life principle [i.e., or The real self]
                    is
                        always
                           • safe,
                        always

    holds out

                                justified hope
                                   that will
                                        never
                                           be disappointed.
               There is
                   never any fear
                        in this new life experience [i.e., in this new life experience manifesting
                                                    from the universal life principle, the real self].
               Yet it [i.e., Yet this new life experience manifesting
                                                    from the universal life principle, the real self]
                   cannot be
                        • pushed and
                        • forced.
               It [i.e., This new life experience manifesting
                                                 from the universal life principle, the real self]
                   happens
                        exactly to the degree
                           that you no longer
                                fear
                                   the involuntary processes.
13
               Humanity
                   finds itself
                        in the paradoxical position of

    deeply yearning for

                                the fruits of these involuntary processes,
                         yet
                           • fearing and
                           • battling
                                them [i.e., yet fearing and battling these involuntary processes].
```

*The conflict* [i.e., the conflict of deeply yearning for the fruits of these involuntary processes of the real self on the one hand yet on the other hand fearing and battling them at the same time] is • terrible and • tragic. It [i.e., the conflict of deeply yearning for the fruits of these involuntary processes of the real self on the one hand yet on the other hand *fearing and battling them at the same time]* can be resolved only when you let go of the fear [i.e., only when you let go of the fear of these involuntary processes of the real self]. 14 All psychological problems come, in the final analysis, from this much deeper existential conflict [i.e., existential conflict of deeply yearning for the fruits of these involuntary processes of the real self on the one hand yet on the other hand fearing and battling them at the same time], far beyond the • individual neuroses and • personal difficulties the child experiences that later cause inner • conflicts and • misconceptions. All life moves toward resolving it [i.e., resolving this existential conflict of deeply yearning for the fruits of these involuntary processes of the real self on the one hand yet on the other hand fearing and battling them at the same time].

```
The precondition
    of such resolution [i.e., resolution of this existential conflict of deeply yearning
            for the fruits of these involuntary processes of the real self on the one
           hand yet on the other hand fearing and battling them at the same time]
         is that
            first
                the individual neurotic conflicts
                    must be
                        • found and
                        • understood.
You need to
    learn to
         • see
       and

    accept

            whatever is real
                  in
                    • yourself,
                  in
                    • others,
                  in
                    • life.
Honesty
    must prevail
         to stop one's attempts
            to cheat life,
                 no matter how subtly.
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```
All
                   character defects
                       have to be removed.
              And when I say
                   removed,
              I mean
                   • fully acknowledging and

    objectively observing

                       them [i.e., acknowledging and observing all character defects],
                          without
                               • plunging into despair
                             and
                               • denying the defects.
               This attitude [i.e., This attitude of fully acknowledging and objectively observing
                                              all character defects, without plunging into despair
                                              and without denying the defects]
                   in itself
                       removes the defects
                          infinitely more effectively
                               than any other approach.
15
              In other words,
                   it is
                       not
                          a question of
                               first having to
                                  remove the defects
                                      so that
                                          then [i.e., so that after the defects are removed]
                                              something else can happen.
              It is [rather]
                   a question of
                       being able to
                          quietly
                               see oneself
                                   in
                                      the defect.
```

```
Only then [i.e., Only when one is able to quietly see oneself IN the defect]
    is one able to perceive
         the existential conflict
            between
                 • the ego
            and
                 • the universal consciousness [i.e., the real self].
The spontaneously manifesting
    universal consciousness [i.e., The spontaneously manifesting the real self]
         has nothing to do with
            • religious precepts
                of a removed deity, or
            • a life beyond
                this physical life.
These [i.e., These concepts that the spontaneously manifesting real self is due to
                                       religious precepts of a removed deity or
                                       to a life beyond this physical life]
    are misinterpretations
         that have arisen
            as a result of
                sensing this universal life principle [i.e., sensing or experiencing
                                                                      the real self].
When a person
    • senses it [i.e., When a person senses the spontaneously manifesting universal
                consciousness (also called the universal life principle or real self)]
  and
    • gropingly tries to convey
         this experience [i.e., this experience of the spontaneously
                                                              manifesting real self]
            to those
                whose ego
                    is still in conflict with
                        the creative life principle [i.e., in conflict with the real self],
misinterpretations do occur.
They [i.e., These misunderstandings of these experiences of the spontaneous
                                                       manifestations of the real self]
    must alienate you
        from
            • your immediate self
         and from
            • your practical daily life.
```

```
16
              People
                  who are frightened of
                       these alienating processes [i.e., frightened of the alienating processes
                                                     involved in these experiences of the
                                                     spontaneously manifesting real self]
                          remove them
                              by creating a vague theory [i.e., creating a vague theory about how
                                                     these experiences of the spontaneously
                                                     manifesting real self come about].
              They wish to find
                  a compromise
                       between
                          • their yearning,
                                      that comes from
                                         the deep sense of
                                             the present possibilities available to them
                                                     [i.e., possibilities available to them
                                                     from the spontaneously manifesting real self]
                       and
                          • their fear [i.e., their fear of the spontaneously manifesting real self].
              This compromise [i.e., This compromise between their yearning and their fear]
                  exists
                       in every form of
                          formalized religion
                              • that removes God
                                 from
                                      • the self
                                  and from
                                      • daily life,
                              • that splits
                                  human nature
                                      into
                                         • the spiritual
                                       and
                                         • the physical
                                              being.
```

```
Thus [i.e., Thus by every formalized religion that removes God from the self and
                                              from daily life, and that splits human nature
                                              into the spiritual being and the physical being]
                   total fulfillment [in life]
                        is removed
                          from
                               the now
                           into
                               a life after death.
              All such

    views and

                   • approaches to life
                        are nothing but
                           a compromise
                               between
                                  what one
                                       • senses could exist [i.e., what one senses could
                                              exist, namely the spontaneously manifesting real self]
                               and
                                  what one
                                       • fears [i.e., what one fears, namely the spontaneously
                                                                     manifesting real self].
               This fear [i.e., This fear of the spontaneously manifesting real self]
                  goes beyond
                       the neurotic fears
                           that stem from
                               • misconceptions and
                               • personally experienced traumas.
17
               What is
                   this basic fear of
                        letting go of the outer ego
                           to let the universal processes [i.e., in order to let the universal processes
                                                                            of the real self]
                               • unfold and
                               • carry you?
```

```
It [i.e., This basic fear of letting go of the outer ego in order to let
                                        the universal processes of the real self carry you]
                   is the misunderstanding
                        that
                           giving up
                                • the ego
                        means
                           giving up
                                • existence.
               In order
                   to get a little better understanding
                        of this problem,
               let us consider
                   how
                        the ego
                           formed itself
                                out of universal life [i.e., out of the universal life principle
                                                       or out of the real self].
18
               Individualization
                   is an integral aspect of
                        the universal life force [or real self].
               Life
                   is always
                        • moving,
                        • reaching out,

    expanding and

                           • contracting,
                        • finding new areas
                           of experience and
                        • branching into
                           new territories.
               Creative life
                   is no different [i.e., is no different from life].
               Thus it [i.e., Thus creative life]
                   finds
                        forever new ways
                             to
                                experience
                                   itself.
```

```
As an individual consciousness
    separates itself
        further
            and further
                from its original source,
it [i.e., this individual consciousness]
    • "forgets"
         its essence
  and
    • becomes oblivious
         of
            its own
                • principles and
                • laws
                   until it [i.e., until this individual consciousness]
                        seems
                           to be
                               a totally separate entity.
            • Individual
                existence
is therefore associated
    only
         with
            • separate
                existence.
Giving up the ego
    must
         then
            appear to the individual
                as an annihilation
                   of its unique personal existence.
```

```
19
              This [i.e., This situation that INDIVIDUAL existence seems to be associated ONLY
                               with SEPARATE existence, such that giving up the ego appears to
                               the individual as an annihilation of its unique personal existence]
                   is the current condition
                       of human beings.
              You live under
                   the illusion
                       that
                          • life,
                          • the sense of "I am,"
                               can be found
                                  only
                                       in your "separate" existence.
              This illusion [i.e., This illusion that life, the sense of "I am,"
                                              can be found ONLY in your "separate" existence]
                   has brought
                       death
                          into the human realm,
                               for
                                  death
                                       is nothing but
                                          this illusion [i.e., this illusion that life, the sense of
                                                              "I am," can be found only in your
                                                              "separate" existence]
                                              being carried to
                                                 its final absurdity [i.e., the absurdity of trying to
                                                             live life as a an existence "separate"
                                                             from the whole].
20
              The realization of
                   the illusory character of
                       a separate ego-existence
                          is an extremely important step
                               in the evolution of humanity.
              Any work
                   of
                       self-realization
                          brings the issue [i.e., the issue of the illusory nature
                                                      of a separate ego-existence]
                               into very clear focus.
```

```
To the extent
    you look at
         the immediately available
            truth of yourselves
                as individuals,
you will find
    that
         • you
    and
         • the creative life principle [i.e., the real self]
            are one.
You will then find
    that
         everything I say here
             is
                 • realizable
               and
                 • ascertainable
                    right
                        • here
                       and
                        • now.
It [i.e., Everything I say here]
      is
         not
            a theoretical teaching
                 that you can,
                    at best,
                        consider
                           intellectually.
```

```
The more
                  you
                       • look at yourself
                          in truth
                      and
                       • shed your illusions
                          about yourself,
              the more
                  you will realize that
                       individual existence
                          is not surrendered
                               when
                                  the involuntary processes
                                         the creative life principle [i.e., the involuntary processes
                                                                                   of the real self]
                                              are allowed to
                                                 • take over and
                                                 • integrate
                                                     with
                                                        the ego functions.
21
              Some of my friends
                   have begun to experience
                       the immediacy
                          of this greater life
                               more
                                  and more frequently.
              They
                   • experience
                       a renewal of energy and
                   • find, paradoxically,
                       that
                          the more they give
                               of their energy,
                          the more
                               renewed energy
                                  they generate within.
              For that
                   is the law of
                       the universal life principle [i.e., the law of the real self].
```

```
The separated state
    operates
         dualistically;
it seems "logical"
    that
         • the more
            one gives,
         • the less
            one has
       and
         • the more
            depleted one becomes.
This comes from
    the illusion
         that
            the outer ego
                is all there is to
                   individuality.
This [i.e., The illusion that the outer ego is all there is to individuality]
        the root of
            the fear
                to let go of
                   all tight ego defenses.
```

```
22
              By the same token,
                   those who begin to
                        experience
                           these

    powers and

                                • energies
                                   [of the universal life principle, the real self]
                                       also begin to notice
                                           the influx of
                                               an inspirational intelligence
                                                  that seems to be
                                                       much vaster
                                                          than anything they know
                                                               in their
                                                                  • outer intellect
                                                               as opposed to
                                                                  • inner wisdom.
               Yet it [i.e., Yet this inspirational intelligence]
                   is essentially
                        their "best self."
              It [i.e., This inspirational intelligence]
                   first seems to be
                        a foreign power,
              but it
                   is not.
              It only seems so [i.e., This inspirational intelligence only seems to be
                                                                              a foreign power]
                   because
                        these channels
                           had been clogged up
                                due to
                                   • one's ignorance of their existence [i.e., one's ignorance of the
                                                       existence of channels to the inspirational
                                                       intelligence of the real self]
                                 and
                                   • personal
                                       • little lies and
                                       • self-deceptions.
```

```
This vaster intelligence [i.e., This vaster intelligence of the real self, of the
                                                                             universal life principle]
                   manifests as
                        • inspiration,
                        • guidance, and
                        • a new form of intuition
                           that comes
                               not
                                    in
                                       • a vague feeling,
                               but
                                    in
                                       • concise words,
                                    in
                                       • definite knowledge,
                                          • graspable and
                                          • translatable into daily living.
23
               The discovery
                   of this new life
                        reconciles
                           the apparent opposites
                               of
                                   being
                                       • an individual
                               and
                                   being
                                       • at one
                                           with all others,
                                       • an integral part
                                          of a whole.
               These [i.e., Being an individual AND at the same time being at one with all others,
                                                              being an integral part of a whole]
                   are no longer
                        • irreconcilable opposites,
                     but
                        • interdependent facts.
```

```
All
                   such opposites,
              all
                   apparently mutually exclusive alternatives
                        that cause so much heartache to humanity,
                               begin to fall into place
                                   when
                                       • the ego
                                     connects with
                                       • universal life [i.e., with the universal life principle,
                                                                              with the real self].
24
               When I speak of
                   letting go of the ego,
               I do
                   not
                        mean
                           • its annihilation,
                        or even
                           • disregarding its importance, or
                           • letting it fall by the wayside.
               The ego
                   has made itself
                        a separated part of
                           the universal life [i.e., The ego has MADE itself a separated part of the
                                       universal life principle, a separated part of the real self]
                               which can be found
                                   deep within the self.
              It [i.e., The universal life (or the universal life principle or the real self)]
                   is immediately accessible
                        if so desired,
                           when
                               the ego
                                   is ready to reconnect itself
                                       to its original source.
```

```
When the ego
                   becomes strong enough
                       to take the risk
                           to trust faculties
                               other than
                                  its limited conscious capabilities
              it [i.e., the ego]
                   will find
                       a previously undreamed-of
                           new security.
25
               The fear of
                   [taking] this new step
                       stems from the idea
                           that
                               • the ego will
                                  • be crushed,
                               • it will
                                  • fall into nothingness and
                                  • cease to exist.
               This fear
                   appears
                       to be alleviated
                           by holding on to
                               • unmoving,
                               • petrified
                                  psychic substances.
                               The unmoving
                                  seems safe;
                               the moving,
                                  perilous.
                               This is why
                                  choosing to hold on to life [i.e., to life, which is moving, instead
                                           of holding on to unmoving petrified psychic substances]
                                       seems scary,
                                         for life
                                              is eternally moving.
```

```
When you find
                   that the movement is safe
                       because
                           it carries you,
              you have found
                   the only real security there is.
              All other security -
                               • trust in,
                             or
                               • leaning on
                                  the static –
                   • is illusory
                 and
                   • breeds forever
                       more fear.
26
               The principle is the same
                   as the one that moves the planets,
                        which do not
                          fall into space.
              At the core of the human predicament
                   there always lies
                       the feeling,
                        "If I do not hold on to myself
                           I endanger myself."
              And once you
                   are conscious of this feeling,
              you possess
                   an important key,
                       for [i.e., for when you are aware of this feeling, "If I do not
                                              hold on to myself I endanger myself,"]
                          you can consider the possibility
                               that it [i.e., consider the possibility that this feeling]
                                  is an error.
```

```
There is
                   nothing
                        to fear;
              you
                   cannot be

    crushed or

                        • annihilated.
               You
                   can only
                        be carried,
                           as planets
                               are carried in space.
27
              As I so often say,
                   the state of humanity's
                        present consciousness
                           creates
                               • the world you live in,
                             including
                               • its physical laws.
               You are so used to
                   putting
                        • effect
                           first
                      and
                        • cause
                           later.
               This [i.e., Putting effect first and cause later]
                   is a result of [i.e., is caused by]
                       your dualistic state of mind,
                           which
                               • is unable
                                  to see the whole picture and
                               • tends to think
                                   in an either/or manner.
```

```
You are
    not relegated to
         this sphere;
rather,
    this sphere,
         with all it contains,
            is an expression of [or is caused by or is a result of]
                humanity's overall state of consciousness.
One of the physical laws
    expressing [or being caused by]
         this state of consciousness
             is
                the law of gravity.
It [i.e., The law of gravity]
         a special law
            that pertains only to [or that is caused only by]
                your dualistic consciousness.
The law of gravity
    • parallels, or
    • expresses on the physical level,
         • the emotional reaction to
       and
         • the apprehension of
            • falling and
            • crushing
                [that appears to happen]
                    when the ego
                        is given up
                           as the sole form
                                of individual existence.
Spheres of consciousness
    that have transcended
         the dualism of this plane
            have

    different physical laws,

               corresponding to
                • their overall consciousness.
```

```
Human science,
                  even from the merely materialistic point of view,
                       shows this to be so.
                       The science of space
                          proves this.
                       In outer space
                          there is no gravity.
              Yours
                   is not the
                       • last and
                       • only
                          reality.
28
              This analogy [i.e., This analogy with outer space]
                   is more than
                       merely symbolic.
              It is a sign
                   that could widen your horizon
                         in
                          • thinking about, and
                          • inwardly experiencing,
                              new boundaries of reality,
                                  thus diminishing
                                      your
                                         • fear
                                   and
                                      your
                                         • illusion
                                              of being
                                                an isolated
                                                     ego-existence.
```

its [i.e., open yourself up to the universal life principle's or the real self's]

availability.

```
Anyone can corroborate that
    the more
         courage is summoned
            to look at
                • the truth of oneself
               and
                • nothing but the truth,
    the easier it becomes
         to connect with a
            • vaster,
            • safer,
            • more blissful
                life within.
The more
    connected you become
         with something that
            removes
                • all uncertainty and
                • all conflict,
the more
    you will
        feel
            • a security and
            • an ability to function
                that you never knew
                   could exist within you.
Here [i.e., Here in the universal life principle, also called the real self]
    are
         functions
              of
                • power,
                energy;
        functions
             of
                • intelligence
                   that
                        • resolve
                           all conflict and
                        • furnish solutions to
                           apparently
                               unsolvable problems.
```

```
All
    ifs and buts
         in daily practical living
            are loosened up -
                        not through
                           • outer magical means,
                        but through
                           • your
                               increasing capacity
                                  to cope with everything that happens
                                       as an integral part of yourself.
Moreover,
    you develop
         an increased ability
             to
                experience
                   pleasure,
                        as you are meant to.
To the extent
    you have
        disconnected yourself [i.e., disconnected yourself from the universal
                                       life principle, also called your real self],
you must
    vearn
        for this way of living [i.e., yearn for the way of living that connecting to the
                universal life principle, your real self, would enable you to live].
```

```
30
              A few years ago [see Pathwork Lecture 14 - The Higher Self, the Lower Self,
                             and the Mask, given about 10 years previously on October 11, 1957]
                   I used the following terms
                        to describe certain
                           • overall.
                           • fundamental
                               levels of the human personality:
                                  • the higher self,
                                       meaning
                                          • the real potential in everyone,
                                          • the universal life [i.e., the universal life principle
                                                                                    or the real self]
                                              in every human core;
                                  • the lower self,
                                       made up of all
                                          your
                                              • deceits,
                                          your
                                              • character defects,
                                          your
                                              • illusions,
                                              • pretenses and
                                              • destructiveness.
                           Then I discussed a third component
                               which I first called
                                  • the mask self
                               and later
                                  • the idealized self.
                                              It [i.e., the mask self or the idealized self]
                                                 is based on
                                                      a pretense
                                                         of being
                                                              • what one
                                                                 wants to be, or
                                                              • what one feels one
                                                                 ought to be in order to be
                                                                     • liked and
                                                                     • approved of.
```

```
31
              During our discussions
                   we have come face to face
                       with many aspects
                          of this triad [i.e., of the higher self, the lower self, and the mask self].
              Once [see Pathwork Lecture 66 – Shame of the Higher Self,
                                              given about 7 years previously on May 27, 1960]
                   I spoke of
                       a frequent phenomenon,
                          that you are often
                               ashamed
                                  of your higher self [i.e., your real self]-
                                      of the best in yourself.
              For many personality types
                   • it seems
                       shameful
                          to display
                               one's
                                  • best,
                               one's
                                  • most
                                       · loving and
                                       • generous
                                          impulses;
                   • it seems much
                       • easier and
                       · less embarrassing
                          to show one's
                               worst.
32
              Today
                   I can speak a little more about this topic [i.e., about shame of the higher self]
                       on a

    deeper and

                          • more subtle
                               level.
              For this [i.e., shame of the higher self, of the real self, shame of the best in yourself]
                   is a very important point,
                       immediately connected with
                          the fear of exposing
                               the real self.
```

```
Some of my earlier lectures
    merely described
         certain features
            of one kind of personality
                on a relatively superficial level.
The specific personality
    I then discussed [i.e., The personality that I discussed in my earlier lectures]
        feels
            this shame
                primarily
                   about
                        · good qualities,
                   about
                        • giving and
                        • loving.
Such people
    believe
         • they give into
            society's demands [i.e., believe that when they express good qualities
                        and express generosity and love that they are merely giving
                        in to society's demands rather than being their "true" self—
                        believing they are NOT, in truth, loving or generous people]
      and
         • they thereby [i.e., they believe that by meeting society's demands they]
            lose the integrity
                of their individuality.
They fear their
    • submission to and
    • dependency on
         the opinions of others
            and therefore
                feel ashamed of
                   any
                        genuine
                           impulse
                               to please others.
They therefore
    feel more "themselves"
         when they are
            • hostile,
            • aggressive,
            • cruel.
```

```
33
              All human beings
                   have a similar reaction to
                       their real self.
              This does
                   not apply only to
                       • their
                           actual
                               • goodness and
                               • loving generosity,
                   but also to
                       • all other
                          real
                               • feelings and
                               • ways of being.
              This strange shame
                   manifests as
                       • embarrassment and
                       • a sense of exposure
                          about the way one
                               really
                                  is.
              It [i.e., This strange shame about the way one really is]
                   makes one
                       feel as though
                          one were

    naked and

                               • exposed.
              This experience
                   can be registered by
                       everyone –
                               and it is
                                  not the shame of one's

    deceits and

                                      • destructiveness,
                                  nor of
                                      • one's compliance.
              This shame is
                   on an
                       • entirely different level, and
                   of a
                       • different quality.
```

```
The only way
    I can describe it [i.e., describe this different quality of shame]
         is to say that
            what one
                really is
                   feels
                        shamefully naked -
                               regardless of your
                                   • good
                                 or
                                   • bad
                                       • thoughts,
                                       • feelings, or
                                       • behavior.
This [i.e., This concept of feeling shamefully naked in your very being or existence
                independent of your good or bad thoughts, feelings, or behavior]
    is extremely important to comprehend,
        for it
            explains
                how artificial levels
                   are created.
These artificial levels
    do not exclusively result from
         misconceptions
            in the usual sense.
When
    the naked core of oneself,
         as one is now,
            is exposed,
the personality
    is
         • less frightened of
            • annihilation or
            • danger,
         • but more
            • ashamed.
```

```
The element of
                   danger
                       comes in
                          when the ego
                              yields to
                                  the involuntary processes.
              The shame
                   is felt most acutely
                       when it comes to
                          being
                               what one is
                                  in the moment.
34
              Because of
                   this feeling [i.e., Because of this feeling of shame of being what one actually is],
                       people
                          pretend.
              This [i.e., This pretense – pretending to be someone other than what one is]
                  is a different kind of pretense
                       than the one that
                          covers up
                               • lack of integrity,
                               • destructiveness, and
                               • cruelty.
              This different kind of pretense
                    is
                       • deeper,
                       • more subtle.
              You may
                  pretend things
                       you
                          actually feel.
```

```
You may
    really
        feel
           love,
but
    to show this
        real love
           feels naked,
               so you
                   create
                       a false love.
You may
    really
        feel
           anger,
                as you are now.
But this real anger
   feels naked,
        so you
           create
               false anger.
You may
    really
        feel
           sadness,
but you
   feel
        mortified
           to acknowledge this sadness,
               even to yourself,
                   so you
                       create
                          false sadness,
                              which you can easily display to others.
```

```
You may
                   really
                       experience
                          pleasure,
              but this, too,
                   is humiliating
                       to expose,
                          so you
                               create
                                  false pleasure.
              This even applies to elements
                   like
                       • confusion and
                       • puzzlement.
              You
                   • intensify and
                   • dramatize
                       your emotions,
                          as I explained in the last lecture [see Pathwork Lecture 151 – Intensity:
                                                     An Obstacle to Self-Realization, given
                                                     the month before on April 7, 1967],
                               and so you
                                 falsify them.
35
              Because the
                   real feeling
                       seems so

    naked and

                          • exposed,
                               you
                                  create
                                      a false one [i.e., a false feeling].
```

```
This falsification [of a real feeling]
    functions like
         a protective garment
            which
                no one
                    but one's
                        • deepest,
                        • usually unconscious
                           self
                                knows of.
This "protective garment" [that one uses to cover one's real feelings]
    anesthetizes one
         to the
            • vibrancy and
            • buoyancy
                of life.
All such imitations
    build a screen
         between
            • you
         and
            • your life center.
This, too, [i.e., This screen between you and your life center, too,]
    separates
         • you
    from
         • reality,
for it is
    the reality
         of your own being
            that you
                 • cannot stand
              and
                • feel compelled
                    to imitate,
                        thereby
                           counterfeiting
                               your very existence.
```

```
The moving stream of life
                  seems
                       dangerous,
                          not only
                               • as far as
                                  your safety is concerned,
                          but also
                               • as it [i.e., but also as the moving stream of life, the reality
                                                                            of your own being]
                                  affects your
                                      • pride and
                                      • dignity.
              But all this is
                   • stark and
                   • tragic
                       illusion.
              As you can only find
                   • true safety
                       when you
                          unite with
                               the source of all life
                                  within you,
              so you can find
                   • true dignity
                       only when you overcome
                          the shame of being real -
                                      whatever this [i.e., whatever this "being real"]
                                         may mean at the moment.
36
              Sometimes
                   annihilation
                       seems a
                          lesser evil
                               than
                                  • the strange sense of shame [i.e., shame of the reality of your
                                                         own true being, shame of your real self]
                                 and
                                  • the exposure of one's real being.
```

```
When you
    • recognize this shame [i.e., this strange shame of your real self]
  and
    • do not push it away
         as inconsequential,
you take
    a tremendous step, my friends.
Feeling this shame [i.e., Feeling shame of the real self, shame of the higher self]
    is the key
         to finding a numbness of feelings
            that causes
                • despair and
                 • frustration, and
it [i.e., feeling this shame of the real self, feeling this shame of the higher self]
    leads to
         • self-alienation and
         • disconnectedness
             of a particular kind.
It [i.e., Feeling this shame of the real self, feeling this shame of the higher self]
    is not translatable into
         rational language
            because there is nothing you can possibly say in mere words
                that distinguishes
                    • the real [i.e., the real feelings]
                from
                    • the false [i.e., the false or imitation feelings] –
                        only
                            • the flavor of experience and
                           • the quality of being
                                are different.
The imitation feelings
    are often

    subtle and

         • so deeply ingrained
            that they have become
```

second nature.

```
Therefore [i.e., Since the imitation feelings (versus the real feelings)
                 are subtle and so deeply ingrained and have become second nature]
    it takes
         • a deeply sensitive
            • letting go,
            • letting yourself
                 be.
          and
            • letting yourself
                feel,
      as well as
         • wanting to be discerning
            about your discoveries.
All this is necessary
    before you become
         acutely aware of
            the apparent
                 • exposure and

    nakedness

                    the real feelings
                        cause in you.
The subtle imitation
    not only
         reproduces
            • other, or
            • opposite feelings
                from those [real feelings] you register,
    but also,
         and just as frequently,
            • the identical ones [i.e., feelings identical with your real feelings].
Their [i.e., The false or imitation feelings']
    intensification
         then serves to make
            the
                 • false [i.e. the false or imitation feelings]
            appear
                 • real [i.e., appear to be the real feelings].
```

```
37
               You first come in contact with
                   the center
                        of the universal life [i.e., center of the universal life principle or
                                                                             center of the real self]
                           that you are
                               only when
                                  you are real -
                                       whatever this [i.e., whatever being real]
                                          may mean
                                              now.
              But before
                   this experience [i.e., this experience of being real]
                        is possible,
              you need to encounter
                   the phenomenon of
                        • shame and
                        • nakedness.
               When you
                   meet
                        this momentary real self,
                           it is far from
                               "perfect."
               This [i.e., Meeting this momentary real self]
                   is not
                       a dramatic experience –
                          yet it is crucial.
               For what you are
                   now [i.e., For the real self that you are now]
                       contains
                           all the seeds you will ever need
                               in order to live

    deeply and

                                  • vibrantly.
```

```
38
               You are
                   already
                       this universal life power.
              Every conceivable possibility
                   is contained in it.
               What you are
                   now [i.e., Your real self that you are now]
                        is not shameful
                           because of
                               your faults;
              it [i.e., rather, what you are now, your real self]
                        is much more shameful,
                           as it seems to you,
                               because of
                                  its
                                       • immediate,
                                       • existential
                                          reality
                                              that seems so naked.
               When you have
                   the courage
                       to be your real self,
              a new approach
                   to your own inner life
                        can begin,
                           after which
                               all pretenses fall by the wayside.
39
               This [i.e., All pretenses falling by the wayside when you have the courage
                                                                            to be your real self]
                   applies to the
                        • obvious and
                        • crude
                          pretenses
                               that can usually be seen
                                  by all but oneself,
                   as well as to the
                        • subtle
                          pretenses
                               I just described [i.e., the subtle imitation feelings, etc.].
```

```
These [i.e., These pretenses]
    stand
        between
            • the ego
        and
           • the universal self.
They [i.e., These pretenses]
   form
         • a thin
      but
         • firm
            screen
                that blocks out
                   the life-giving force.
They [i.e., These pretenses]
    are responsible for
        your alienation from
           the universal life principle [i.e., from the real self].
They [i.e., These pretenses]
    create the
        apparently
            • dangerous and
           • unbridgeable
                chasm
                   between
                       • the ego
                   and
                       • the universal power.
They [i.e., These pretenses]
    are responsible for
        your
            illusory
                • fear and
                • shame.
```

```
This shame [i.e., This illusory shame of the real self, of the universal life principle]
                   is just as basic
                        as all the fears responsible for
                           • the misconceptions and
                           • the splitting
                                of the individual.
               It [i.e., This illusory shame of the real self, of the universal life principle]
                   • originates from
                        some fears
                 and
                   • creates
                        others [i.e., creates other fears],
               but it [i.e., but this illusory shame of the real self, of the universal life principle]
                   is not exactly
                        the same as
                           the fears themselves.
40
               The shame
                   of one's own nakedness
                        in showing
                           one's self,
                                as it [i.e., as one's real self]
                                    is
                                        in the now,
                                           is explained by
                                               the deep symbolism of
                                                   the story of Adam and Eve.
               The nakedness
                   of reality
                        is
                           paradise.
```

```
For
    when that nakedness [i.e., that nakedness of the real self]
         is no longer denied,
    a new blissful existence
         can begin –
                • right here
                   and now,
            not in
                • another life
                   in the beyond.
But it takes some
    acclimatizing
         after one has become aware of
            the shame.
It takes
    a path
         within the path
            to become
                more conscious of
                   • the ingrained
                   • but subtle
                       habits
                          with which one covers up
                              one's
                                  inner
                                      nakedness.
How easy it is
    to revert back to the shame [i.e., revert back to the shame of one's inner
                               nakedness, shame of the nakedness of one's real self]
        out of
            long-standing
                habit!
```

```
But once you
    • pay attention to it [i.e., pay attention to your shame of your inner nakedness,
                               your shame of the nakedness of your real self]
  and
    • elicit the powers available
         in you,
            again
                and again,
                   so that you
                       • notice
                          your
                               • shame and
                          your
                               • hiding
                     and
                       • learn to
                          uncover yourself,
you will
    finally
         • step out of
            your protective shell
      and
         • become
            more real.
You will
     he
        the naked you,
            as you are
                now –
                   not
                       • better than you are,
                   not
                       • worse than you are,
                   and also not
                       • different from
                           the way
                               you are.
```

```
You will
                  • stop
                       • the imitation,
                       • the counterfeit
                          • feelings and
                          • ways of being,
                and
                   • venture out
                       into the world
                          the way you happen to be.
41
              Are there any questions in connection with this lecture?
              QUESTION:
              How can you
                   determine whether your feelings
                       are
                          • real
                       or
                          • put on?
              ANSWER:
              The only one
                   who can determine it [i.e. determine whether your feelings are real or put on]
                          you,
                              by
                                  • seriously probing and,
                              first of all,
                                  • considering the possibility
                                      that your feelings
                                         may be
                                             put on,
                            and
                              by
                                  • not being frightened of this [i.e., not be frightened that
                                             your feelings may not be real but rather put on].
```

```
For
    people are
         terrified
            of the thought
                that their feelings
                    are fake –
                        even in a subtle way [i.e., even if people are terrified
                                                              in a subtle way].
                        They fear that
                           if these feelings
                                are not real
                           then they have
                               no feelings.
                        They fear
                           their own emptiness.
                        And this fear [i.e., this fear of their own emptiness]
                           is devastating.
                        It [i.e., Their fear of their own emptiness]
                           exerts a
                               subtle pressure
                                   to go on pretending.
But there is
    always
         a point inside
            where you say,
                 "No, I do not want to feel."
```

```
Whether this [Whether the point inside where you say,
                                "No, I do not want to feel,"]
    stems from

    childhood and

         • personal traumatic experiences,
    or connects with
         • the deeper human problem
            applying to all individuals
                that I discussed in this lecture [i.e., shame of one's real self],
there must always be
    a resolve
         not to feel.
This resolve [i.e., This resolve not to feel]
    is often
         totally unconscious,
            so that one is
                • disconnected from it [i.e., disconnected from this resolve
                                                                      not to feel]
               and
                • helpless about the result -
                                which is, of course,
                                   no feelings.
The terror [i.e., The terror of even the thought of having no feelings]
    is infinitely greater
         when
            the conscious self
                that
                    • wants feelings
         is ignorant of
            the side of the self
                that
                    • fears feelings.
```

```
The terror
    of being unable
         to feel
            cannot be compared to any other.
It is therefore
    of enormous help
         to realize that
            • no one is
                really without feelings
           and
            • these feelings
                cannot ever
                   die permanently.
    • Life
and
    • feelings
         are one;
where there is
    • one.
there must be
    • the other,
         even if one
            is inactivated
                at the moment.
Knowing this [i.e., Knowing that life and feelings are one, and that hence knowing
                            that if one is alive one must have feelings somewhere]
    makes it possible to
         • search within and
         • ask,
                "Where have I
                   decided
                       not to feel?"
```

```
The moment
                  you become acutely aware of
                       vour
                          fear
                              to feel,
              you will
                  cease to fear
                       that you
                          have no feelings.
              It is then possible
                  to reactivate your feelings
                       with the help of
                          reason,
                              through
                                  • realistic and
                                  • rational
                                      evaluation of the circumstances.
42
              I have given you
                  a lot to think about.
              This is quite a bit of material,
                  which you can fruitfully use
                       in the continuation of your pathwork.
43
              Be blessed,
                  every one of you.
              May your endeavors succeed
                       • become real,
                    to
                       • find the courage
                          to be nakedly real
                              without any false covers.
              You cannot help but succeed
                    if
                       you
                          really want to.
```

```
Those who do
    not

    move and

         • grow and
         • liberate themselves
            do
                not
                    want to -
                        and it is important to know this -
                           and find in you
                               the inner voice
                                   that refuses to move.
May
    all your false layers
         fall away
            because
                this is what you
                    really
                        • want and
                        • decide.
You will then discover
    the glory of
         living.
Be in peace,
         be in God!
```

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