

Pathwork Lecture 212: Claiming the Total Capacity for Greatness

1996 Edition, Original Given June 1, 1973

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><i>Greetings, my</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>very dearest,</i> • <i>most beloved</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>friends,</i> • <i>brothers and</i> • <i>sisters,</i> • <i>sons and</i> • <i>daughters.</i> <p><i>Again</i> <i>a working season draws to its end.</i></p> <p><i>But</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>each end</i> <i>is a beginning, as</i> • <i>each beginning</i> <i>is also an end.</i> <p><i>These are the endless cycles,</i> <i>the waves</i> <i>of the infinite flow</i> <i>of the river of life.</i></p>

by Eva Broch Pierrakos

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*If you are
within the flow,
you*

- *grow and*
- *expand*

*more
and more
into
universal oneness.*

*If [on the other hand] you
obstruct the flow,
you*
accumulate [rather than let flow through you] the

- *force and*
- *energy*

*which [i.e., which force and energy thus accumulated] manifest
as blocks
of*

- *pain and*
- *suffering.*

04

At each

- *beginning and*
- *end*

of a working season
I give something like a

- *map or*
- *bird's eye view*

*of the phase
you have left behind,
to make you ready for
the phase to come.*
*These maps
give you
a better understanding
of the progression.*

- *No new phase is possible
without the preceding one.*
- *No step
can be skipped.*

*Year after year
of our cooperation
these maps
have proven to be*

- *exact and*
- *timely*

*for most of you,
while others
may catch up later.*

*But that [i.e., But catching up later]
is all right.*

*Always, of course,
a few*

- *fear and*
- *resist*

*so much
that they*

- *deliberately
obstruct
their*
- *progression and
natural organic movement*
- *and therefore experience
unnecessary*
 - *fear and*
 - *pain.*

*But on the whole,
this [i.e., this year-after-year of our cooperation, using the maps I provide]
is the way we work together.*

05

*At the start of this working season [that we are now ending with this lecture]
I announced that the winter
would be dedicated to
the beginning
of "transforming work."*

***Transformation of
negative***

- ***consciousness and***
- ***energy***

becomes possible

after

you

- ***finally allow
your negativities
to surface,***
- ***accept them, and***
- ***take full responsibility for them.***

A

- ***vague and***

- ***general***

awareness of

- ***destructive and***
- ***evil***

intents

does not suffice

***for the transformation work
to take place.***

[Rather,]

- ***The negativities [including the destructive and evil intents]
must be
fully seen,
in all their details;***

- ***fear and***

- ***shame***

of them [i.e., fear and shame of the negativities and evil intents]

must be

overcome;

- ***hiding and***

- ***camouflaging or***

- ***whitewashing***

[of the negativities and the destructive and evil intents]

must have

stopped;

- ***exaggerated self-blame [for the negativities and evil intents]***

must be

relinquished.

	<p><i>What is necessary [for the transformation of your negativities and evil intents] is to</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• simply and</i><i>• honestly</i> <i>own up</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• to the full force</i> <i>of devilish attitudes and</i><i>• to all their [i.e., to all the devilish attitudes']</i> <i>puny details.</i> <p><i>Only this act [i.e., Only the act of honestly owning up to the full force of the devilish attitudes in you and all their puny details] will free you.</i></p> <p><i>The act is by no means a</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• morbid or</i><i>• self-negating</i> <i>process,</i> <i>however.</i>
06	<p><i>Some of you may still wonder why</i> <i>so much emphasis</i> <i>on the negative</i> <i>is necessary</i> <i>for genuine spirituality</i> <i>to be reached.</i></p> <p><i>Some of you may have tried</i> <i>other approaches,</i> <i>hoping to bypass</i> <i>this highly unpleasant task [i.e., the unpleasant task of facing your negativities and your negative intentionalities],</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• but real solutions</i> <i>cannot be reached,</i><i>• nor can integration</i> <i>occur</i> <i>in those</i> <i>other ways.</i>

07	<p><i>The fruits of your hard work in this first unpleasant phase [i.e., this first unpleasant phase of facing your negativities and your negative intentionalities] are beginning to be reaped.</i></p> <p><i>A number of you have succeeded this past year, after arduous work with negative matter, to effect true transformation.</i></p> <p><i>The founding of the Center has helped greatly in this particular aspect of the work.</i></p>
08	<p><i>The phases of transformation are not exactly divided.</i></p> <p><i>[Rather] They [i.e., the phases of transformation] overlap.</i></p> <p><i>In one area [of your life] you may have</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• faced the negative aspects,</i><i>• removed blocks,</i> <p><i>and be ready for</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• transformation work,</i> <p><i>while in other areas [of your life] there is grave</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• distortion and</i><i>• destructiveness</i> <p><i>untouched so far by your conscious awareness.</i></p>

***In still other areas [of your life]
you***

- ***have gained
full purification and***
- ***are***
 - ***clear and***
 - ***free.***

***This [i.e., This being at various stages of purification and transformation in
different areas of your life]***

***is why it is
difficult to judge
whether
total self-purification
has been achieved
or not.***

Only

- ***complete dedication,***
- ***watchfulness,***
- ***awareness,***
- ***readiness to***
 - ***dismiss wishful thinking and***
 - ***restrain pride***

***will protect you
from***

- ***illusion –***
- and [from]***
- ***the pain of disillusionment.***

09

*The specific manner of
the pathwork
offers
wonderful protection.*

- *The closeness
you have developed,*
- *the intimate knowledge
of yourselves
that you share with each other,*
- *the perceptiveness
so many develop
increasingly
as a result of your progress,*
- *the greater*
 - *honesty and*
 - *courage**that gradually become
second nature –*

*all that
is
indispensable help.*

*One important gauge
of the pathwork
can constantly be used
to determine your state:*

- *what is your
life manifestation
telling you?*
- *How*
 - *rich and*
 - *full**is your life?*

- *How much are*
 - *joy,*
 - *peace, and*
 - *abundance**increasingly open to you?*

- *How much less*
are you
 - *afraid and*
 - *reluctant**to*
 - *meet and*
 - *expose**the deepest regions of*
your innermost self?

- *When you encounter*
inner blocks
in momentary crises,
how fully
do you
travel through them
to find yourself
more fully you?

These questions
when honestly probed,
will lead you to
the truth
about your progress [on the path of transformation and your state].

They [i.e., These questions, when honestly probed]
will tell you

- *whether or not*
you are
stuck,

- *whether*
you deceive yourself –
perhaps hoping that
you can avoid dealing with
certain unpleasant inner material.

10

*On the whole,
all of you
have traveled far
since last year.*

*You are
in a different
inner place
and
you know it.*

*Many of you
find yourselves
for the first time
connected
in a way
you*

- never believed possible and*
- doubted could really exist,*

*in spite of having given lip service
to the words
you have been hearing from me for years.*

*Many of you
believe*

- truly and*
- deeply*

*for the first time
that*

- inner problems
can indeed be
fully resolved*

and

- the problematic self
can become*

- healthy,*
- whole, and*
- renewed*

in a vital way.

*The number of friends
reaching these stages
increases steadily*

*and they [i.e., those reaching these stages of development and transformation]
help transmute [i.e., help raise to a higher state]
the energies of
new friends
joining the pathwork.*

- *Momentum,*
 - *courage,*
 - *faith,*
 - *proof and*
 - *conviction*
- are*
vital components,
affecting those
who
- *witness*
what is happening to you and
 - *bathe*
in your environment.

11

*When you reach stages
which heretofore
you have only
heard described,
you also
gain courage
to go deeper,
into
still hidden layers
of covert evil.*

*There is always
the spiral configuration:*

*level upon level,
until
the circles in the spiral
become smaller and smaller.*

*As they [i.e., As the circles in the spiral]
become smaller
and gradually
converge into
one point,
the way
becomes
increasingly simple.*

*The simplicity
at the final turn of the spiral
is
love.*

*This simplicity [of the final turn of the spiral – love]
means little
when the circles in the spiral
are still large.*

*Then [i.e., When the circles in the spiral of development are still large]
everything
is complicated
by the multiplicity
of the ego's
separation from
the oneness.*

*In that state of separation,
the word
"love"
• is empty of
• feeling and
• experience,
• [instead, the word "love" remains]
a word
merely bandied about.*

*Worse,
• it [i.e., the word "love"]
is misused and
• one speaks about love
when many other things are meant
that have little or nothing
to do with
real love.*

*When you
experience fully
the inner meaning
of love,
you will
know
that
everything
is contained
in that word.*

12

To recapitulate briefly:

*previous phases of our work [i.e., the phase of the work prior to this year]
dealt with your ability
to face*

- negative attitudes,*
- faults,*
- distortions,*
- destructiveness,*
- impurities.*

*Last year
was the*

true beginning

*of [i.e., the true beginning of the next phase of the work, namely,]
transforming*

- negative substance –
both*

- energy and*
- consciousness –*

into

- positive substance.*

*Both these aspects of the work [i.e., Both the aspect of FACING and ACCEPTING
negativity and also the next aspect of TRANSFORMING
negative substances into positive substances]*

*will, of course,
continue.*

***The second phase [i.e., TRANSFORMING negative into positive substances],
now increasingly possible,
will lead***

- to claiming
your
own:***
- to claiming
your***
 - full,***
 - total,***
 - unique
self,***
- your***
 - hidden greatness.***

***Tonight's topic
is about
claiming
what is truly yours.***

13

***In a recent lecture
I outlined
some typical manifestations
of***

- states and***
- experiences
in which***
 - the little self
merges with***
 - the divine self.***

[In that lecture]

***I observed that
there are many other
such manifestations [i.e., other such manifestations of states and
experiences in which the little self merges with the
divine self than just those I mentioned in that lecture],
some of which
I would discuss at later periods.***

***This is one of them [i.e., This is one of those periods when I will discuss other
experiences in which the little self merges with the divine self].***

14

*It may seem peculiar,
but it is a fact
that
human beings
have a reluctance
to let themselves
• truly be
what they
• could be.*

*Of course,
an overgrown ego
makes its claims [for greatness]
constantly,
• overtly or
• covertly.*

*But
when it comes to
your
real
greatness,*

*you become
• inhibited,
• ashamed,
• afraid –*

*you hold back
what you
• could be,
what you
• sense you already are.*

*What is this
strange wall
that holds you back
from being*

- *who and*
- *what*
you are,

from being

- *your*
- *best,*

• *your*

- *greatest,*
- *most wise,*
- *generous,*
- *loving,*
- *creative,*
- *self-assertive,*
- *unfolding,*
- *aware,*
- *courageous,*
- *humble*
self,

*with all its
innate*

- *dignity and*
- *nobility?*

*You are all of this
and more.*

You have

- *your own*
- *specific turn of mind,*
- *talent and*
- *intelligence;*

you have

- *something*
utterly unique
to contribute to
- *life and*
- *creation.*

God manifests

- *in*
- and*
- *through*
- you*
- in a*

- *special and*
 - *individualized*
- way,*
- totally different from*
- all others.*

15

Now what makes it
seem
so difficult
to claim
your greatness?

When you become
your full self,
in the best sense of the word,
you are
apparently
two opposites
at once:

- *you are*
 - *unique and*
 - *special,*

while at the same time

- *you are*
 - *not at all special.*

You are
like everyone else
in the sense that
each one of you
is
a divine manifestation.

All of you have
• *fundamental divine qualities*

and also [all of you have]
• *faults that obstruct them [i.e., faults that obstruct your divine qualities].*

The faults
may vary in
• *intensity and*
• *emphasis.*

You
may differ
• *in your*
• *development,*
• *in your*
• *openness and*
• *willingness to be in truth.*

But
all of you
• *manifest as*
egos and
• *must go through*
the same fundamental struggle
to transcend
the ego.

You are
unique
in the way God
can manifest through you
when you
• *remove*
your obstructions,
when you
• *allow*
your specific greatness
to come forth.

Everyone
is a genius,
for everyone
is God.

16

*For the
little ego
that claims
ego specialness
this [i.e., this news that everyone is God, that no one is
special and above others]
is not
welcome news.*

*The little ego
wants to be*

- *superior,*
- *above all others.*

*The Godself [on the other hand]
makes no such demands.*

*What obstructs
real greatness
from flowing forth [naturally from the Godself]
are the claims of the
little ego
which wants to
tower above others,*

- *needing admiration;*
- *needing to*
 - *compare and*
 - *compete and*
 - *subdue others*

to prove itself superior.

*This [i.e., This little ego and its need to tower over others, to compare,
compete, and subdue others]
is the particular evil
that has to be ousted.*

*This particular evil
brings a Pandora's box full of
many other attitudes
which create*

- *shame,*
- *suffering, and*
- *many other*

destructive evil patterns.

17

You may well say,

*"I only wish to be
more than others
because I feel
less than nothing."*

*But how about trying to
reverse
this premise?*

*Would you really feel
less than nothing
if you did not
need
to be so superior?*

*I venture to say,
no.*

Would you be

- *envious,*
- *jealous,*
- *petty,*
- *self-serving,*
- *spiteful,*
- *manipulative,*
- *malicious,*
- *denying others*

their own Godself –

in short,

• *loveless –*
*if you
did not wish to set yourself
above others?*

• *Your God-consciousness*
and
• *the other person's God-consciousness*
are
never
in conflict.

Only the ego,
in its separated state,
is in conflict
because of
• *blindness and*
• *limitation.*

The ego
is
• *not one,*
it [i.e., the ego]
is
• *divided,*
and often
• *in*
• *conflict and*
• *contradiction.*

The God-consciousness in you [in contrast to the ego,]
is
One.

The Godself [in you]
does not
push for recognition.

It [i.e., The Godself in you]
• *recognizes itself and*
• *is sufficient unto itself.*

18

**Another obstruction
to the realization of**

- **your own ultimate unique**
- **beauty,**
- **greatness –**
- **your**
- **genius –**

**is your
fear of
still existing
evil
within yourself.**

**All fear
is ultimately
the fear of that [i.e., all fear is the fear of the still existing evil in you].**

**When
the real nature
of this fear [i.e., When the real nature of this
fear of this still existing evil in you]**

is

- **denied and**
- **projected onto other persons,**

**outer events
begin to manifest
that seem to justify
one's fear of others [rather than realizing that fear is of the evil in you].**

**The nearer you come
to transcending fear
the more you have to**

- **meet the self –**

and

- **overcome your reluctance to do so [i.e., your reluctance to meet the self].**

**The fear [i.e., The fear of the still existing evil in you]
creates
a tremendous wall [around you]
and [your fear of the still existing evil in you]
is a much greater obstruction
than the evil itself [i.e., than is the evil itself that still exists within you].**

I have said this many times.

*This kind of fear [i.e., the fear of the evil that still resides within you]
has much to do with
wanting to*

- *rise above [others] and*
- *shine in the eyes of others.*

*The claim
of the little ego,
translated into words,
cries out:*

"Admire me,

I am so much better than you.

Love me for it."

*Which, of course,
is
the ultimate folly.*

19

*The fear of
evil within
is superfluous,
because
the evil
is really
distorted*

- *beauty and*
- *love.*

*The devil
that resides in
everyone
was
initially
an angel.*

*How can you
confront
this devil?*

*All of you
have made
substantial progress
in this respect [i.e., in respect to confronting this devil within you].*

You
• *reveal,*
you
• *expose,*
you
• *admit,*
you
• *acknowledge,*
you
• *take responsibility*
to an ever greater degree.

*This [i.e., Because you do all this revealing, exposing, admitting, acknowledging,
and take responsibility to an ever greater degree for the devil within you]
is why*

• *transformation [of this devil within you]
occurs*
and [why]
• *the*
• *deepest,*
• *most persistent*
problems
become resolved
with ever greater frequency.

But
wherever
there is still
fear [i.e., wherever there is still fear of the evil that is still within you],
ego-pride
is always
partially responsible [for this fear of the evil that is still within you].

This ego-pride
is connected to
your ignorance of
the nature of
the devil in you.

*Not only
do you believe that
this devil
is the*

- *final,*
- *real*

you,

*but you also believe that
the devilish part
of the self
is*

- *intrinsically
foreign and*
- *other than
divine.*

This is ignorance.

20

*I would like to invite you now, my friends,
to make room
in your consciousness
for the idea
that this very same devil,
with all its*

- *cruelty,*
- *malice,*
- *dishonesty,*
- *pettiness,*
- *hate and*
- *fear*

*is essentially
an angel.*

- *Allegorically and*
- *symbolically,*

*Lucifer
was an
angel of light.*

*He [i.e., Lucifer, an angel of light]
turned into Satan.*

*It is the evolutionary task
of all separated entities
to bring about
a re-transformation:*

- *from Satan
to Lucifer,*
- *from darkness
to light.*

*This process [of re-transformation from darkness to light,
from Satan to Lucifer]
takes place
within your psyche,
my friends.*

21

*The devil
is your
fear.*

*The fear
is guilt*

- *for the*
 - *hateful,*
 - *malicious,*
 - *cruel*
- ways of the mind,*

- *for feelings
that always in some way
are expressed also in
actions.*

Only

- **when this guilt** [*for the hateful, malicious, cruel ways of the mind and for the associated feelings and actions*]
is faced,

- **when the pain of it** [*i.e., the pain of this guilt for the hateful ways of the mind*]
is

- **fully experienced,**

- **not rejected**
but traveled through,

can

- **guilt and**
- **fear**
dissolve.

Then

the angel
reveals itself.

Then

you are infused with

- **warmth,**
- **love,**
- **confidence,**
- **soft flow,**
- **joy, and**
- **creative expansion.**

This process [*of re-transformation from darkness to light,
from Satan to Lucifer*]

takes place,
again and again,
until

all
evil matter
is transformed.

You will then

no longer believe

that you give up anything –

except [*to give up*] **the struggle**
when your mind

still wants to hold onto

being negative [*and separate*].

***The illusion is
that you lose something [in this process of re-transformation from darkness
to light, from Satan to Lucifer].***

***I often have said
that so much energy
is trapped in evil,
an energy
that you do not wish to be without,
even though
you do your utmost to
• squash and
• deny
it
in its present [negative, evil, separated] state.***

***When you go through the process
of the genuine transcendence
of evil,
you gain back
all the forceful vitality
that you had to
inactivate
in order to avoid
the evil.***

***You lose nothing [in this process of re-transformation from darkness
to light, from Satan to Lucifer];***

***the gain [from this process of re-transformation from darkness
to light, from Satan to Lucifer]
is enormous.***

22

*If you can learn to
open wide
your*

- *arms,*

your

- *consciousness,*

your

- *positive will*
to the devil in you,
in
 - *faith and*
 - *fearless confidence*
in the inner guidance,

*you will
in reality
dispel all fear.*

*There is
no illusion here
of*

- *escaping and*
- *cheating.*

You do not

- *overcome,*

you do not

- *oust or*
- *separate yourself from*
anything in you.

*[Rather,]
You meet your demons
full face.*

Then [by meeting your demons, your devils, full face]

- *they will dissolve and*
- *their original nature [i.e., their angelic nature]*
will be revealed.

*Fully embrace
this devil
in the idea that
the devil
is an angel.*

The
• *power and*
• *vitality*
of this devil
can indeed,
by your own
turn of
• *mind and*
• *consciousness,*
become
a glowing light force
of
• *beautiful creative verve*
• *love and*
• *energy,*
of
• *supreme wisdom.*

The
• *puny,*
• *jealous,*
• *separative*
consciousness
of the devil,
constantly battling against
the beautiful laws of life,
will spread wide open.

And I say to you:
the stronger
the devil,
the stronger
the angel.

For
the strength in essence [i.e., For the strength in essence of both devil and angel]
is the same.

	<p><i>Allow this thought [i.e., allow this thought that the strength in essence of both devil and angel is the same]</i></p> <p><i>to take root in you, and</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>you will</i> <i>fear much less.</i>• <i>You will</i> <i>be less inclined to</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>hide and</i>• <i>whitewash and</i>• <i>be a-tremble</i> <i>of your own</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>evil or</i>• <i>devil.</i>
23	<p><i>Approach your devil</i> <i>with the ultimate of</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>courage and</i>• <i>faith and</i><i>crystallize out of it [i.e., crystalize out of your devil]</i> <i>your beautiful angel.</i></p> <p><i>This is the</i> <i>transforming work [i.e., the transforming of Satan into Lucifer, of darkness</i> <i>into light].</i></p> <p><i>It [i.e., this transforming work] will take place</i> <i>in ever-increasing measure.</i></p> <p><i>No one can</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>claim his or her</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>birthright and</i>• <i>genius, and</i>• <i>make a</i> <i>unique contribution</i> <i>to life,</i><i>who does not</i> <i>fearlessly</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>meet</i> <i>the inner devil and</i>• <i>expose</i> <i>it [i.e., expose the inner devil].</i></p>

24

Only in this way [i.e., only by fearlessly meeting the inner devil and exposing it] can you

- *reconcile opposites,*
- *transcend dualities.*

- *Each duality,*
- *each mutually exclusive opposite you meet*

*as an obstruction,
is a sign
that*

- *you are still divided.*
- *You are split off from your deeper consciousness, split off in*
 - *fear,*
 - *pride,*
 - *self-will,*
 - *ignorance,*
 - *greed, and*
 - *hate.*

These same aspects can be reversed:

- *fear becomes*
 - *faith and*
 - *trust;*
- *pride [becomes]*
 - *humility;*
- *self-will [becomes]*
 - *a*
 - *supple,*
 - *resilient,*
 - *flexible*
 - *giving-in*
 - *going-with attitude; and*
 - *a finely attuned flexibility to flow with your rhythm of life.*

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Ignorance becomes</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>awareness,</i>• <i>perception,</i>• <i>understanding and</i>• <i>wisdom;</i>• <i>greed [becomes]</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>a special kind of trust that lets you</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>reach out and</i>• <i>know there is abundance for you in every way.</i> <p><i>And you will have abundance, so that greed will be ludicrously superfluous.</i></p> <p><i>Most significantly,</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>your hate will turn into</i>• <i>your power of love.</i>
25	<p><i>No one finds</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>peace and</i>• <i>inner fulfillment,</i>• <i>joy,</i>• <i>wholeness,</i>• <i>security, and</i>• <i>the intrinsic genius [required in order] to add to creation</i> <p><i>who is not dedicated to a cause outside the self.</i></p>

This [statement that no one finds peace, inner fulfillment, joy, wholeness, security, and intrinsic genius required to add to creation who is not dedicated to a cause outside the self]

*is not
therapeutic ploy;*

*you must
not
force yourself
in a dutiful way
to be*

- *dedicated and*
 - *selfless,*
- in order to
collect desirable rewards of*
- *glowing health and*
 - *fulfilled living.*

But it [i.e., But this statement that no one finds peace, inner fulfillment, joy, wholeness, security, and intrinsic genius required to add to creation who is not dedicated to a cause outside the self]

*is something
you ought to*

- *understand clearly and*
- *use as yet another signpost
to where you are.*

26

*Once again,
you should admit honestly
whether you still see
fulfillment in life
as a totally*

- *selfish and*
- *self-serving*

*enterprise
in which
everything
is supposed to be geared
to suit you.*

*If you
explore your fantasies
in this respect [i.e., in respect to seeing a fulfilled life as one being a self-
serving enterprise in which everything in life geared to suit you]
you will see
exactly where you are.*

*It is important that here,
as in all other matters,
you be completely honest.*

*If you see that there is
no genuine desire in you
as yet*

- to serve a larger cause,*
- to forget the little self-interest,
at least some of the time,
for the sake of larger issues,*

*then you should understand
your*

- loneliness,*

your

- disconnectedness,*

your

- fear and*
- guilt and*
- inability*

to realize your talents.

27

*You must know
that*

- you have the innate capacity
to be self-forgetful,*

but that

- your little ego
thwarts
this natural state [i.e., this natural state of being self-forgetful].*

*Maybe you
hold onto
misconceptions
[misconceptions] that will prevent you
from
wanting
to go beyond yourself.*

*Perhaps you believe that
dedication to a cause
beyond
your little ego
implies*

- masochistic suffering and*
- deprivation,*
- poverty, and*
- frustration of
personal*
- fulfillment and*
- needs.*

*As a matter of fact
it is the other way round.*

Only

- when you can
truly give to
creation,*
- when you
make your
unique contribution
in a selfless spirit,*

*can you also
feel entitled*

- to be fulfilled,*
- to experience abundance
in all ways.*

	<p><i>If you feel</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>inhibited and</i>• <i>reluctant</i> <p><i>to claim this</i> <i>full self-expression [of your unique contribution to creation],</i> <i>it would be good to look at</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>your selfishness,</i>• <i>your lack of interest</i> <p><i>to add to the universe.</i></p> <p><i>You may conceal</i> <i>this inhibition [against giving your unique contribution to creation]</i> <i>under</i> <i>a pseudo-selflessness</i> <i>which may, in fact,</i> <i>be more selfish</i> <i>than</i> <i>overt selfishness.</i></p> <p><i>It [i.e., this inhibition against giving your unique and best</i> <i>contribution to creation]</i> <i>may be part of</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>your mask [that wants to appear to be a certain way],</i>• <i>your need to appear good</i> <p><i>in the eyes of others [but yet hold back your unique and best</i> <i>contributions to creation].</i></p>
28	<p><i>Many of you</i> <i>have begun</i> <i>to dedicate yourselves</i> <i>to a greater cause.</i></p> <p><i>It is an organic process</i> <i>that develops</i> <i>as you face the</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>self-serving opportunism and</i>• <i>vanity</i> <p><i>of your little ego.</i></p>

[In this organic process of coming to serve a cause greater than yourself]

You

- ***grew into
a more developed state***

and now

- ***feel the fulfillment
that comes from***
 - ***giving to creation or***
 - ***servng a spiritual cause.***

You may not

**have specifically
connected**

- ***your increased***
 - ***peace,***
 - ***joy,***
 - ***liberation,***
 - ***creativity,***

with

- ***the fact that
you are
more interested in
giving something of yourself
to the cause of
helping other souls
advance to higher states
of inner truth.***

Perhaps

***by making this connection [i.e., the connection between your increased
peace, joy, liberation, and creativity with the fact that you are
more interested in giving something of yourself to the cause of
helping other souls advance to higher states of inner truth],
now you will be further encouraged
in the right direction.***

29

Once again
we can observe
two circles,
one
• vicious,
the other
• benign.

When you
• stay in fear and
• hide from
the inner evil,
you cannot claim
your
• total,
• wonderful
• egoless
self.

[Instead of claiming your total, wonderful, egoless self,]

You remain
• selfish,
• concerned
only in a negative way
with
• little ego interests,
• puny advantages, and
• unwillingness to give to life.

Thus you
• become
more and more
• impoverished,
• unhappy,
• embittered,
and
• feel justified to
• withhold,
• give nothing –
and the
vicious
circle
continues.

30

*As you
transform
• the vicious circle
into
• a benign circle,*

*almost inadvertently
you are led naturally
to an attitude of
selfless giving.*

*It [i.e., this selfless giving]
is never
a sentimental giving in to
• neurotic and
• unhealthy
demands.*

*[Rather,]
It [i.e., this selfless giving]
is true giving.*

*And
in giving to others,
you cannot escape
giving to the self.*

*For in reality,
as you find out increasingly,
the attitude to
• the self*

*can be no different from
the attitude toward
• others,*

and vice versa.

	<p><i>Thus giving to a larger cause is the greatest self-enrichment imaginable.</i></p> <p><i>Life cannot be cheated.</i></p> <p><i>Your life speaks the truth to you about this and other matters.</i></p>
31	<p><i>Giving to a cause beyond the little ego is the supreme satisfaction.</i></p> <p><i>Deprive yourself of that [i.e., Deprive yourself of giving to a cause beyond a cause of the little ego]</i></p> <p><i>and you cannot know</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• peace,</i><i>• joy,</i><i>• fulfillment,</i><i>• self-esteem,</i><i>• the deep sense of deserving the best that life has to offer.</i> <p><i>The correlation is exact:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• to the degree you offer</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• generously and</i><i>• trustingly</i><i>the best you have to give to life, allowing God's will to be done,</i><i>• to that degree will you feel entitled to open your arms wide to receive the best life has to offer.</i>

[Conversely,]

- *To the degree
you hold back
in puny fear
that this [i.e., that this giving to a cause greater than a cause
of the little ego]
might damage
your self-interest,*
- *to that same degree
must you hold back
from receiving life's riches.*

There can be no mistake.

*A finely calibrated mechanism
in the deepest regions of your psyche
works in
absolute perfection.*

*When your
giving to life
becomes so whole
that you
are deeply willing
to forgo*

- *the little vanities*
- *the greater truth,*

*with
the sense of responsibility
that this is necessary,*

*then
the abundance of your life
will surpass
your present understanding.*

32

*When this group came together,
you were
all separate islands,
each one*

- concerned with
his or her
own little suffering,*

- completely walled off
from*
 - your inner self
and consequently, of course, also from*
 - each other
and from*
 - life.*

*You were
unwilling
to give to life.*

*Only recently
do many of you
find that this still holds true [i.e., that it still holds true that you are
unwilling to give to life]
to some extent.*

*But
you make this discovery [of your unwillingness to give to life even]
as you are already devoted to
giving of yourself
to a cause beyond.*

*You are engaged
in the most noble cause
an entity can be active in,
the*

- purification and*
- healing
of souls.*

*In this way
do you contribute
in the most vital way possible
to the great evolutionary plan.*

33

*Every single soul
who*
 • *comes nearer to the threshold,*
who
 • *finally passes this threshold,*
releases
 untold energies
 of
 • *beauty,*
 • *wisdom,*
 • *strength,*
 • *love,*
 • *truth,*
 • *creative resourcefulness,*
 • *entering into the experience of oneness,*
 and thus
 affecting,
 directly and indirectly,
 zillions of other entities.

*Just try to figure out mathematically
how*
 each changed attitude in you
 profits
 those around you.

*Each attitude of
constructive giving
is an*
 • *immense,*
 • *beautiful and*
 • *vital*
 living force
 in the universal scheme,
 affecting endlessly
 what is.

I once gave this analogy:

*if an object is thrown into water,
waves form in circles
spreading wider and wider.*

These waves never end.

*They only seem to end
where the body of water ends.*

*But if the body of water were as endless
as the universe,
these waves
would never end.*

So each

- idea,*
- intent, and*
- thought*

you form,

- motivated by
unselfish devotion to
universal*

- truth,*
- love,*
- faith,*

- expressing
a desire to
contribute to life
according to
the will of the*

*All-Consciousness
that permeates all life,*

is an

endless wave

- that never
never
ceases;*

- that has its effects
long after you have
lost any remote inkling of it
in your conscious mind.*

- *You activate
new creation,*
- *you set
new psychic events
in motion,
which have
an inexorable effect
on*
 - *life*
- and*
 - *on*
 - *you.*

34

- It is therefore
of utmost importance
that you know
what tremendous effects
your*
- *thinking and*
 - *intentionality*
- have,*
- *the positive,*
- as well as*
- *the negative.*
-
- *Your
loving thoughts
to the universe,*
 - *your
surrender
to the divine creative intelligence
in you*
- is as*
- *real and*
 - *effective*
- as*
- *your spiteful withholding
in lack of trust.*

35

*The venture you are now engaged in
gives you a wonderful opportunity
to help others.*

*The work of purification
you do
must in some way
be transmitted to others.*

*Your giving
can take
many forms.*

*You will do it [i.e., you will help and give to others]
in your own unique way.*

*Your inner creative intelligence
must make the decision for you,
for
only you
know
how you are best suited
to contribute.*

*What you can determine
with your conscious mind
is*

- the intent,*
- the wish*
to surrender your will,
- the desire*
to activate
that in you
which is greater than your ego,
in order to
 - increase the strength*
of your group and
 - add to the light*
it [i.e., add to the light your group]
already is.

*The more honest you are
in this respect [i.e., in respect to your intent, your wish to surrender your will,
and activate that in you which is greater than your ego],
the clearer
will the muddy waters become.*

*If you are honestly aware of
your self-serving [rather than selfless giving for the greater cause of creation],
you are
a step nearer
to truly selfless giving.*

36

*Why can you
not
claim your greatness?*

*Because
the little self
is constantly on the lookout
for its own little advantages.*

*These personal gains [for which the little self is constantly on the lookout]
may be
• material;*

*they [i.e., these personal gains for which the little self
is constantly on the lookout]*

*may manifest in
• pride,
the need to
• show off and
• gain admiration from others;
the need to
• look better than you secretly believe you are.*

*When you free yourself
of these attitudes [of seeking personal gains, of the need to show off],
it will be easier for you
to claim your true self
with all its*

- *capacities,*
- *potentialities and*
- *uniqueness.*

*You will
allow yourself
the abundance
that you now may experience
only*

- *in limited ways and*
- *at the price of guilt.*

*You will be appreciated,
simply because
it is no longer your aim
to be appreciated.*

*You will no longer
be ashamed of
being the best you can be.*

*Holding back
from
being your best
will loosen
as you*

- *detach from
self-serving,*

as you

- *release*
- *the stingy withholding from life,*
- *the spiteful non-givingness,*

as you

- *come out of the*
- *hypocrisy and*
- *hiding*

of the little ego.

*You will
lose your fear
of the evil inside,
aware now
that
the feared evil
contains
the essence of the good.*

*Within every devil
slumbers
an angel
that wants out.*

37

*If you
lack humility
you cannot
allow your greatness
to come forth.*

*But
in humbleness
there will be no need
to restrain
your greatness.*

*There will be
no
• pushing,
no
• proving,
[rather, there will be]
just
• a quiet inner knowing [i.e., knowing that your greatness is coming forth
in a selfless way for the good of the whole].*

*It is then
entirely
• unimportant and
• unnecessary
that others
recognize you.*

*They will come to recognize you
when
you no longer*

- *need it and*
- *insist upon it.*

*It is
the little ego
that*

- *needs recognition and*
- *has no sense of proportion.*

*It is
the little ego
that*

- *gropes in the dark and*
- *fights in all the wrong directions.*

38

*This series of lectures
is coming to a close –
which does not mean, of course,
an interruption of our contact,
now that
your Center
offers
such wonderful opportunity for work.*

*What I suggest to you, my friends,
is that
you visualize for yourself
a new state of greatness*

- *in humility,*
 - *without ego,*
 - *without needing to prove anything,*
 - *without comparing yourself*
 - *positively or*
 - *negatively*
- with others.*

*Visualize yourself
as
unafraid of
the worst in you,

knowing that
the worst
will transform
into the most*

- beautiful,*
- wise,*
- strong,*
- loving*

force.

*It is in hiding [i.e., It is in hiding the worst in you]
that
the worst in you
becomes*

- puny and*
- dangerous.*

*By exposing it [i.e., by exposing the worst in you],
you make it possible
to envisage
your new potential.*

39

*In the next Question & Answer session,
we will discuss many important subjects.*

*Prepare your questions
about the two topics:*

- children's upbringing, and*
- the prospect of
making a sanctuary for*
 - animals and*
 - plant life**in the Center.*

*The answers will be important
beyond the present scope.*

40	<p><i>I bless you now and tell you once again that</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>your work and</i>• <i>your growth</i> <p><i>is an</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>ever-increasing</i>• <i>beautiful</i> <p><i>energy form in the spiritual world.</i></p> <p><i>If you could see the beauty you would be astounded.</i></p> <p><i>If you could truly perceive the</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>value and</i>• <i>significance</i> <p><i>of what</i></p> <p><i>each one of you is doing,</i></p> <p><i>you would know a deep joy.</i></p>
41	<p><i>And you will know it [i.e., you will know the value and significance of what you are doing], sooner or later, even while you are still in the body.</i></p> <p><i>You will inwardly experience it [i.e., you will inwardly experience the value and significance of what you are doing] and it [i.e., this experience of the value of your work] will make you</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>stronger and</i>• <i>more responsible.</i>

*You will become
more conscious instruments,*

- *each in*
 - *your own*
 - *beautiful,*
 - *perfect*
- way,
- *each*
 - *being a little piece*
that completes
the whole.

In this whole

- *one does not function*
without the others,
- rather,
- *each individual*
makes his or her own
unique contribution.

- *There is*
no need for
jealousy.

- *Self-proving*
is never necessary.

When you

*know that [i.e., when you know that space where each is a part of the whole,
and where there is no need for jealousy and self-proving],*
you will also know
your unique

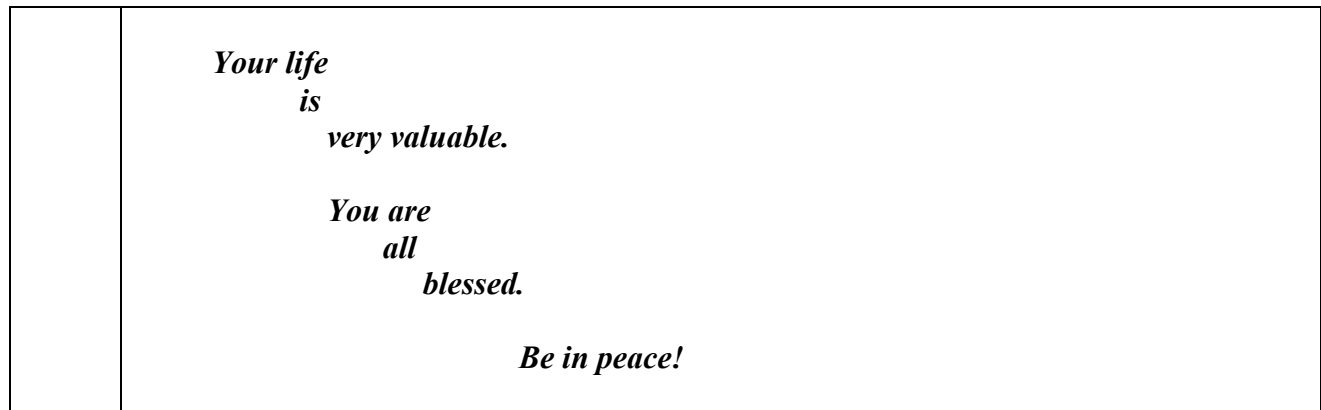
- *greatness,*
- *beauty, and*
- *wisdom.*

42

Love
permeates
all your undertakings.

Every step of the way is

- *meaningful and*
- *significant.*



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