## Pathwork Lecture 216: Connection Between the Incarnatory Process and the Life Task

1996 Edition, Original Given December 12, 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* <u>not</u> *bolded.*] To learn more of my Devotional Format and see the lectures I have done in this way, go to <u>https://www.garyvollbracht.com/pathwork-lectures/pathwork-lectures-devotional-format/</u>

Gary Vollbracht

9	Content
03	
	Greetings,
	my beloved friends.
	You all float
	in a safe cloud of
	divine consciousness and
	you are nurtured
	by divine love,
	whether or not you
	• know it,
	• feel it or
	• experience it.
	Your
	• total consciousness
	knows it;
	your
	<ul> <li>fragmented consciousness</li> </ul>
	does not.
	Try to connect with
	your inner being
	so that you will know this to be true [i.e., know divine love nurtures you].

04	
	In tonight's lecture I will deal with
	aspects of
	the incarnatory process.
	At this point
	of your development on your path,
	this understanding
	will again be
	exactly what you need
	in order to tie up
	certain insights you have gained.
	To begin with,
	I have to recapitulate
	some aspects of
	creation
	that I have discussed previously in different contexts.
	1 5 55
	Creation
	is the attempt of
	divine reality
	to fill the void
	with
	• life and
	• being.
	- being.
	<i>I dedicated a whole lecture to this</i> [See Lecture 20 God: The Creation]
	and I recommend that you reread it
	in order to fully understand the topic.
	in order to july anderstand the topict
	Fragmented consciousness
	is a result of
	the total consciousness
	• spreading
	and
	• filling every nook and cranny of "space."
	space.
	<b>I use this term</b> [i.e., I use this term, "space,"]
	for lack of a better word.
	for tack of a bener word.

05 The human structure itself represents this picture very well. Deep inside your nucleus is an infinite essence. This inward essence is • eternal life, • eternal reality, • eternal beauty, • limitless • wisdom and • love, but although your outer consciousness is connected with the essence, *it* [*i.e.*, *the outer consciousness*] • ignores this fact [i.e., ignores this fact that it is *connected with the inward essence]* and • seems to be disconnected from it [i.e., the outer consciousness seems disconnected from the inward essence]. You seem to be an isolated piece of consciousness. This [i.e., That you SEEM to be an isolated piece of consciousness *disconnected from the inward essence*] is • what makes life appear so frightening and • why your outer consciousness is blindly groping its way back to its connection with the total self.

	Your outer consciousness
	will eventually
	gain awareness of this connection [i.e., gain awareness of this connection
	between it and your total self, your inward essence],
	because
	<i>the connection</i> [i.e., the connection between your outer consciousness
	and your total self, your inward essence]
	was really never broken.
	It only
	seemed
	broken
	from the vantage point
	of the limited outer consciousness.
06	
00	The task of
	every
	• fragmented,
	• apparently disconnected
	aspect of consciousness
	is to realize
	its
	• true identity and
	• connection with the real self [i.e., connection with the
	real self, your total self, your essence].
	This [i.e., This task for every fragmented aspect of consciousness to
	realize its true identity and connect with the real self
	happens
	through
	• an
	often laborious
	groping search,
	through
	• attempts of the mind
	to expand
	its own narrow limitations.

	The mind
	holds this potential for expansion;
	even in its disconnected state it [i.e., the mind] contains every aspect of divine reality.
	Using this potential [i.e., Using the mind's potential for expansion]
	depends only on • which way the mind turns, • which way
	<ul> <li>the will directs it [i.e., which way the will directs the mind],</li> <li>which thought the mind chooses</li> </ul>
	in any given instant.
	<b>This</b> [i.e., This knowledge that the mind's realizing its potential for expansion depends upon which way it turns, which way the will directs it, and which thought the mind chooses in any instant] <b>is an important key, my friends,</b> <b>and we shall return to it later in this lecture.</b>
07	The fragmented aspects
	of • consciousness, of • divine light,
	which seem to have lost their connection [i.e., lost their connection to the real self, your total self, your essence], float around in space.
	<b>These aspects</b> [i.e., These fragmented aspects of consciousness and divine light that are seemingly disconnected from the real self and floating around in space]
	become
	personalities.



08 • A total entity – • a complete entity – is one that is • completely aware of its • divine nature, that is • in total possession of • divine • wisdom and • energy. You are all total entities. but • your manifest consciousness, with which you identify, is • an aspect that • your total entity seeks to reunite with. *This* [i.e., Your total entity or total being reuniting with your manifest consciousness] can happen only when the fragmented aspect of your manifest consciousness [i.e., only when this *fragmented aspect, that is, only when your manifest consciousness*] makes itself compatible with the nature of the total consciousness.

09	
	Life, in its broader sense,
	is greatly concerned with
	the process of
	• spreading divine consciousness
	and
	• reuniting
	apparently
	disconnected aspects.
	There are many different terms
	that designate this process.
	It [i.e., This important Life process of spreading divine consciousness
	and reuniting apparently disconnected aspects]
	is often called
	• the divine plan,
	• the evolutionary plan, or
	• the Plan of Salvation.
10	
10	It [i.e., The Plan of Salvation, the Life process of spreading divine consciousness
	and reuniting apparently disconnected aspects]
	is .
	• an ongoing process,
	• a ceaseless movement,
	• a flowing energy
	that seeks
	to
	• spread out
	and, at the same time,
	to
	• reunify itself.
	In this spreading out
	<i>the connection</i> [i.e., the connection to the real self, to the total entity,
	to its source]
	is sometimes
	apparently
	lost.

```
So the movement is one of
    • spreading out
 and
    • moving back
         to its source
           for reunification,
                forever advancing
                   in this back-and-forth flow.
Each reunification movement back to the source
    follows
         a spreading out process,
            so that
                the unified substance
                   has meanwhile become enlarged.
Just visualize it:
         • spreading out
     and
         • coming back to the source,
                each time
                   • making
                       the unified substance
                           wider,
                   • extending
                       it [i.e., extending the unified substance]
                          ever more.
This is,
       in different terms,
    the great plan [i.e., the Plan of Salvation].
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will explain it so that you can perhaps derive some benefit from understanding your repeated cycles of life. u have heard many explanations about • reincarnation and about • the plans you make before you undertake an embodiment. u have heard it mentioned that you make a contract with yourself to fulfill a certain task. his planning is conducted in the world of spirit.	more suited to your human state of consciousness?	
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hall speak about this now		
-	in the world of spirit.	
in a slightly different manner.	I shall speak about this now	
	in a slightly different manner.	

12 When you are • not embodied, when you are • aware of your total being, you are also • aware of • those aspects in you that • have remained untended and • need • healing and • purification. One could also say that a process of reeducation is needed in which seemingly new knowledge is to be gained – although it is actually very old [i.e., very old knowledge]. *This* [*i.e.*, *This purification and reeducation process*] is parallel to purifying • the feeling into • the pure love of the essence. In order to follow through the process of • spreading and • reunification, the aspect to be purified is, for lack of better words, "sent out," as it were, into the realm of consciousness commensurate with its own state.

And that [i.e., And that realm of consciousness commensurate with *the state or level of consciousness of the aspect being purified*] is the material level of life as you know it in your conscious being. This realm of existence [i.e., This material level of life as you know it in your conscious being] is the expression of the limited state of consciousness of the disconnected aspect – the personality – and in this • more ignorant and • less aware state. all vibratory functions of life are grossly slowed down. The flow of energy • rigidifies and • makes • things and • people fixed. • The flow becomes invisible, as does • the entity itself. The grossly condensed form of its essence appears to be the sole reality.

13	
	In this state of existence [i.e., In this grossly condensed form
	of the energy's essence, which seems to be the sole reality],
	the process I described
	can continue.
	The grosser matter
	becomes more
	and more refined
	as more personalities
	refine
	their
	<ul> <li>vibratory functions and</li> </ul>
	their
	• power of
	• perception and
	• awareness.
	An incarnation
	is thus chosen
	to fulfill specific tasks
	in a vast overall plan.
	The fragmented aspects
	have certain
	basic states
	in common.
	When divine perfection
	has undergone
	the distortion
	that
	temporarily
	alters its manifestation
	into a lesser expression,
	then
	• distortion,
	• misconception,
	• suffering,
	• darkness and
	• disconnection
	seem to be
	the common lot
	of all those
	apparently isolated
	personalities.

• The combinations vary, • the degree of development varies, but some basic components are applicable to • *the divine substance* [with all its myriad variations] as well as • its distorted version. In other words. • one purified being may be totally different from • another purified being, each representing a different aspect of divinity. Yet there are unalterable basic common denominators [i.e., common denominators for all purified beings], including • love. • wisdom, • beauty, and • many other qualities. *The same principle* [i.e., the same principle that holds true for PURIFIED beings, namely that there are many aspects that VARY among purified beings and other aspects that are COMMON to all purified beings, also] holds true of the unpurified personality. Thus, each entity deals differently with the fragmented aspect that needs to be refined.

	The total entity
	figures out
	the incarnations,
	in conjunction with
	• specialized,
	• highly developed beings.
	beings.
	The plans
	are carefully drawn.
14	Deing in the back
	Being in the body
	has one purpose common to everyone:
	common to everyone.
	to find the way toward
	<i>reunifying</i> [i.e., reunifying bodily aspects]
	with essence.
	No matter how
	different
	the tasks may be,
	<i>this goal</i> [i.e. <i>this common goal of reunifying bodily aspects with essence</i> ]
	necessarily remains the same
	for everyone.
	Reunification
	with essence
	can occur
	where the entity
	is already purified,
	but that is
	not
	where the task is, of course.
	<i>The task</i> [i.e., <i>The task to be accomplished in the personality's incarnation</i> ]
	always lies
	where
	• the personality
	is still separate from
	• the essence.

It is then up to the conscious mind to decide whether or not it will use • the already purified aspects to help • the unpurified part in the task fulfillment. The conscious ego *must make this decision* [i.e., this decision whether or not to use the already purified aspects to help the unpurified part in the task fulfillment]. The higher self • will not and • cannot *force it [i.e., cannot force use of the purified aspects in the task fulfillment]* upon the conscious mind. This would go against all spiritual law. The task cannot be fulfilled by putting all emphasis on the connection with the divine self that already exists without focusing on • the problematic aspects, • the blind spots. I have spoken about this in several ways. In this lecture however, I want to relate to the process of connection to • birth and • death from the human standpoint.

15	
	Let us first
	take the process of
	death.
	Birth
	will be better understood
	as a sequel to
	death,
	rather than
	the way you on earth choose to look at it [i.e., rather than looking
	at death as a sequel to birth].
	Since humanity
	sees
	• birth
	as the beginning and
	• death
	as the end,
	starting with
	death
	may seem senseless
	from this disconnected view.
	But you will see
	that you can properly understand
	birth
	only if
	you see it [i.e., only if you see birth]
	as a sequel
	• to death –
	or, rather, [as a sequel]
	• to the manner in which
	death occurred.
	I am
	not
	referring here
	to the superficial circumstances [i.e., superficial circumstances
	surrounding your death].
	I mean
	the fulfillment
	of the task
	of the foregoing life,
	which is reflected in
	the manner of death.
	-

16 The dying process can take many different forms, depending on the personality's task fulfillment. When the inner being permeates the outer personality, the task will be fulfilled. In this case • the person will not only have lived a very full life, but [also] • the fluid energy stream of the divine entity will withdraw very gradually. • The energy recedes, • the life forces pull inward into the • real, • eternal, • infinite world, into the • *infinite space* of creation. This causes a • slow, • late and • organic deterioration of the body.



	The death of the physical matter is equally meaningful.
	It [i.e., Death of the physical matter for those who fulfill their task] is simply another step of • liberation and • unfoldment.
	It [i.e., Death of the physical matter for those who fulfill their task] is not traumatic.
	When death comes [i.e., When death comes for those who fulfill their task] • it is not feared, • nor is it wished for as the final escape from life's difficulties which • are not meaningful and • remain unresolved as a consequence of the personality's stubbornness against • opening and • redirecting the mind.
17	In the truly fulfilled life, difficulties are increasingly treated as • steppingstones, • doors to yet new liberations, which finally cease to be experienced as difficulties.



18	
	<b>But this</b> [i.e., But this process of the unified inner and outer being striving
	organically toward further completion of the great plan, and fuller
	life emerging as the physical life forces recede from the body]
	occurs, my friends,
	only when
	the personality
	learns to
	• tune in to
	the inner being and
	• follow
	its guidance
	as a result of
	concentrating on the aspect of the soul
	that needs to be purified.
	inui neeus to be purificu.
	Then, and then only,
	are the inner and outer being
	in full concordance about everything,
	including
	0
	the time and the manner of
	severing ties
	with the physical vehicle.
	In such cases,
	as the life forces
	recede from the body,
	• a
	• greater,
	• fuller
	life
	comes into being
	and
	• the entity
	can again
	spread out in
	• glory and
	• freedom,
	unimpeded by
	the shackles of
	three-dimensional reality.

	<b>This awareness</b> [i.e., This awareness of the fact that, when the entity focuses on the aspect of the soul that needs to be purified, then in death, as the life forces recede from the body, a greater and fuller life comes into being and the entity can again spread out in glory and freedom unimpeded by the shackles of three-dimensional reality]
	exists
	in the manifesting personality,
	which is
	only one aspect of your full being.
	your juit being.
	I repeat:
	<i>This</i> [i.e., This process]
	applies to
	the ideal instances of
	total task fulfillment.
	I hope that
	all of you
	on your path toward fulfillment
	will follow through sufficiently
	to reach this state of
	• awareness and
	• connection,
	long before
	your inner being
	has decided that
	your time is up
	because
	you have accomplished
	what you have set out to do.
10	
19	In this connection
	I would like to interject
	that there are people
	who have a deep misconception
	that prevents them from
	full commitment
	to their task.
	10 111011 1115m.



20	
	It is, of course,
	utterly false
	to assume that
	the moment your problems are resolved,
	your life is finished.
	Quite the contrary
	is true.
	In fact
	In fact, only when
	your problems are resolved
	can
	a new aspect
	of task fulfillment
	begin.
	0
	For
	no personality can go through life
	without letting
	others
	benefit from
	what it [i.e., letting others benefit from what the personality]
	has learned.
	The
	• need,
	the
	• urge and
	the
	• longing
	to give
	are an integral part of the soul.
	<i>They</i> [i.e., <i>The need, urge, and longing to give</i> ]
	come from
	the inner entity.

	The full life
	that unfolds
	after the bulk of clouds in the soul has been dissolved
	the bulk of clouds in the soul has been dissolved
	is part of the task fulfillment
	the task fulfillment.
	So, please,
	do not hold back
	your progress, my friends,
	because you consider
	• suffering and
	• unfulfillment
	of the soul
	to be
	the only agents
	that keep you connected with
	your body.
	Such thoughts [i.e., Thoughts that suffering and unfulfillment of the soul are
	the only agents that keep you connected with your body]
	may not be quite conscious,
	but
	they nevertheless exist.
21	
	Your
	• awareness of
	and your
	• connection with
	the
	• inner,
	• real
	self
	will make
	• life
	glorious,
	and so you
	will experience
	• death
	as glorious.

That state of consciousness [i.e. That state of consciousness in which your
<i>That state of consciousness</i> [i.e., That state of consciousness in which your awareness of and connection with the inner, real self
makes the experience of both life and death glorious]
will make
life
fearless
because
there is nothing to fear in
dying.
Such fearlessness
is the ultimate development
of each human soul.
<i>That</i> [i.e., <i>That fearlessness</i> ]
is the goal
you are trying to reach.
you are trying to reach.
But now let us look at
various other possibilities
regarding
the process of dying.
These
Those who do not
who do not
totally fulfill their task in life
must Faal
feel
• a vague longing,
• a tugging discontent throughout their lives.
infougnout their uves.
Always heed this [i.e., Always heed this vague longing and
tugging discontent throughout your life]
as a sign
that
something is amiss.
[When this longing and discontant this size that see this is main in the
[When this longing and discontent, this sign that something is amiss is present,]
The conscious mind
should start
a deliberate search.





	Often you mistake
	• the vague discontent
	for
	• the neurosis itself,
	as if
	the absence of
	this experience [i.e., as if the absence of this vague discontent],
	without changing your life's direction,
	would mean
	emotional health.
	In reality,
	you produce neurosis
	as a result of
	failing
	• to establish the connection with
	the inner self
	or
	• to fulfill the contract
	the soul has come to carry out.
	ine sour hus come to curry out.
24	
2.	I want to draw your attention to
	another important point
	that often leads to
	misunderstandings.
	Total fulfillment
	of the life task
	is not necessarily
	contingent on
	attaining [i.e., not necessarily dependent upon attaining]
	a high state of development.
	8 <i>J</i> I
	It is quite possible
	that
	a fragmentary personality aspect,
	embodied in a physical vehicle,
	is not highly developed at all.
	Nevertheless,
	this personality [i.e., Nevertheless this less developed fragmentary personality]
	fulfills its task
	completely.
	1 V

Т

	<i>The task</i> [i.e., The task for this less developed fragmentary personality]
	is, of course,
	• less taxing
	and
	• commensurate with
	such an individual's potential [i.e., such an individual's lesser potential].
	At the same time,
	the ease of the task
	is relative;
	• the task [i.e., the less-taxing task]
	is just as difficult
	for the fragmented individual [i.e., for the less developed person]
	as
	• a much more taxing one
	would be
	for a more highly developed person.
25	<b>T</b>
	In contrast,
	some people
	are highly developed,
	but limp behind
	their potential
	to
	• develop themselves and • fulfill their tasks.
	<i>They</i> [ <i>i.e.</i> , <i>Those highly developed people who limp behind their potential</i> ]
	will therefore
	not live in
	• peace,
	but in
	• fear,
	and
	their deaths
	will
	not be
	the organic process
	I have described.

So understand, my friends, that • task fulfillment, • organic • life and • death, • connectedness and • inner peace are not necessarily a result of higher development. The more highly developed personalities often have *more difficulty* in bringing the divergent aspects of their souls together and therefore their struggles may sometimes be much fiercer [i.e., much fiercer than the struggles of a less developed person]. Also, the less developed person will not have • the conscious awareness and • connection with the inner voice. *In this case* [i.e., In this case with the less developed person], fulfilling one's task will be more

*instinctive* [i.e., more instinctive than for the more developed person who has more conscious awareness and more connection with the inner voice].

```
26
              Anyone
                   • who is on a path such as this [i.e., a path such as Pathwork]
                and
                   • who makes a
                       total commitment
                           to
                               • truth,
                           to
                               • self-facing,
                           to
                              • self-purification,
                           to
                               • giving up
                                  • all
                                      defenses and
                                  • all
                                      subterfuges
                                         in order to face
                                              what seems
                                                 • most difficult and
                                                 • momentarily painful -
              anyone
                   • who chooses
                       to forgo
                          the temptation to
                               concentrate on the
                                  • real or
                                  • apparent
                                      wrongs of
                                         • others
                                      so as to avoid
                                         • the self –
                and
                   • who is thus committed to
                       his or her growth
                          above
                               all other considerations in life,
                                      will make the connection
                                         that will bring
                                              • outer
                                           and
                                              • inner
                                                fulfillment.
```

27	
	Let us now make
	several distinctions
	concerning
	the process of
	dying.
	In addition to
	the ideal case
	described above,
	other possibilities
	occur
	when
	the bridge
	between
	• the inner
	and
	• the outer
	self
	is not yet working.
28	
	What happens
	when death comes,
	:6
	if
	• the outer
	and
	• the inner
	self,
	• the higher self
	and
	• the ego personality,
	• the will of
	• the divine self
	and
	• the will of
	• the conscious mind
	are divided?



29 Now, mind you, my friends, this [i.e., this need to change vehicles and enter a new incarnation] is by no means
<ul> <li>effort and         <ul> <li>investment</li> <li>dissolve these negative creations while still in the body</li> <li>than</li> <li>change the vehicle and</li> <li>choose different "stage settings," so to speak.</li> </ul> </li> <li>29         <ul> <li>Now, mind you, my friends, this [i.e., this need to change vehicles and enter a new incarnation]</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul> <li>investment         to             • dissolve these negative creations             while still in the body             than             to             • change the vehicle and             • choose             different "stage settings," so to speak.</li> <li>29         Now, mind you, my friends,         this [i.e., this need to change vehicles and enter a new incarnation]</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>to         <ul> <li>dissolve these negative creations while still in the body</li> <li>than                 to                 <ul></ul></li></ul></li></ul>
<ul> <li>dissolve these negative creations while still in the body than to         <ul> <li>change the vehicle and</li> <li>choose different "stage settings," so to speak.</li> </ul> </li> <li>29         <ul> <li>Now, mind you, my friends, this [i.e., this need to change vehicles and enter a new incarnation]</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
29 Now, mind you, my friends, this [i.e., this need to change vehicles and enter a new incarnation]
than       to         • change the vehicle and       • choose         othin       • choose         different "stage settings," so to speak.         29         Now, mind you, my friends,         this [i.e., this need to change vehicles and enter a new incarnation]
<ul> <li>to         <ul> <li>change the vehicle and</li> <li>choose</li> <li>different "stage settings," so to speak.</li> </ul> </li> <li>29         <ul> <li>Now, mind you, my friends,</li> <li>this [i.e., this need to change vehicles and enter a new incarnation]</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul> <li>change the vehicle and         <ul> <li>choose different "stage settings," so to speak.</li> </ul> </li> <li>29         <ul> <li>Now, mind you, my friends, this [i.e., this need to change vehicles and enter a new incarnation]</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
• choose different "stage settings," so to speak. 29 Now, mind you, my friends, this [i.e., this need to change vehicles and enter a new incarnation]
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29 <i>Now, mind you, my friends,</i> <i>this</i> [i.e., this need to change vehicles and enter a new incarnation]
<i>Now, mind you, my friends,</i> <i>this</i> [i.e., this need to change vehicles and enter a new incarnation]
<i>Now, mind you, my friends,</i> <i>this</i> [i.e., this need to change vehicles and enter a new incarnation]
this [i.e., this need to change vehicles and enter a new incarnation]
is by no means
always true.
In many instances
it is quite possible
to change a groove
deeply engraved over considerable time,
even in
advanced human age.
uuruneeu nunun ugei
Whether or not
one has reached this point of no return [i.e., Whether or not
one must address his or her negativities in a new incarnation],
no conscious mind
can possibly evaluate –
only the deeper divine mind
can do so.
But one thing is sure:
<i>The farther you go</i> [i.e., the farther you go in the wrong direction], <i>the harder change becomes.</i>


30 In cases where a person has veered so far from the plan intended for the personality that a new direction is impossible to establish, the inner being may decide to die. The higher self knows that • to continue in the established direction is wasteful, • the suffering pointless, and • the fragmented personality better served by starting over again [i.e., starting over again in a new incarnation]. In such instances, the death does not manifest as organic, but *it* [*i.e.*, *but the death in such instances*] is • meaningful under these circumstances and thus • organic in the larger context.

31	
	When I say that [i.e., When I say that in such instances]
	death
	does not manifest
	as organic,
	I mean that it [i.e., I mean that death]
	may occur
	• in a
	sudden
	• accident or
	• illness,
	• in a
	• painful,
	• slow
	illness
	and, above all,
	with the conscious mind
	completely disconnected from
	the inner will.
	ine inner witt.
	The conscious mind
	may
	• battle against
	the inner decision [i.e., the inner decision to die] and
	• contract against
	its own disposition,
	widening
	<i>the disconnection</i> [i.e., disconnection with the inner divine self].
	• Fear
	and
	• self-will
	• take over
	and
	• make inner listening
	impossible.
	• Premature
	and
	• violent
	deaths,
	as when young people die in war,
	often, though not always, fall into this category.
	juu inio inis culegory.

```
Nothing can be generalized.
But
    when death occurs in
         • contraction and
         • fear,
    it is an
         inorganic manifestation,
            even though
                it is organic
                   in relation to the higher self.
In these instances [i.e., In these instances when death occurs
                                              in contraction and fear],
    the outer personality
         is totally unaware of
            the inner self's decision
                and that [i.e., and that fact that the outer personality is unaware
                                              of the inner self's decision to die]
                    makes the process of dying
                        all the more
                           • difficult and
                           • painful,
                               because it seems
                                   • senseless and
                                   • arbitrary.
The outer consciousness
    will then struggle
         against death
            without realizing
                that
                    its greater total consciousness
                        has chosen the best solution
                           under the prevailing circumstances.
```

32 In such circumstances, when the outer personality fights against the inner being's decision, a tremendous struggle ensues. *That struggle* [i.e., *That outer personality's struggle and fight against* the inner being's decision to die] *may continue* even into old age, because the outer personality uses its life force to battle the inner decision. At times, the decision of the inner entity may deliberately outweigh the will of the outer person. *Its powers [i.e., The inner entity's powers]* are, of course, infinitely greater than powers available to the outer consciousness. **But under** other circumstances the struggle may continue and the inner self may choose gradually to discontinue • the old stage setting – • the old incarnation – in order to establish a new one. without, however, overexerting its powers.

The inner self may allow the outer self to keep the battle going to some extent so that the soul may at least learn some important lessons, which it can then utilize in the next "scene." In these cases a life-or-death struggle is literally taking place inside. On one level the struggle is • against • dying. **On another level** the struggle is • for • task fulfillment, • for • going inward to find out where the personality most needs self-work, so that the outer person can focus on areas that it has • ignored and • negated, creating the agonizing struggle in the first place.

33 Another frequent way that people ignore what they most need to look at is by seeking spiritual paths that do not emphasize this aspect of self-work. *This* [i.e., *This seeking other spiritual paths that do not emphasize this self-reflective, self-confrontational purification aspect of self-work*] is a convenient way to delude the self, because "spiritual development" can become an escape, even though you may • gain spiritual knowledge, • achieve beautiful meditations and even • gain genuine spiritual experiences of cosmic reality – for moments. All this [i.e., All this "spiritual development" – all this gaining spiritual knowledge, achieving beautiful meditations and even, for moments, gaining genuine spiritual experiences of cosmic reality] can happen without dealing with the areas that give the person the most • pain, • discomfort, and • guilt, whether or not *this* [*i.e.*, *whether or not this condition of pain, discomfort, and guilt]* is consciously experienced.

34	
	Still another possibility I would like to discuss
	is
	the opposite of the case
	in which
	• the inner being
	decides for death
	and
	• the outer personality
	<i>resists it</i> [i.e., and the outer personality resists death].
	In this instance [i.e., In the instance opposite to the one in which the inner being
	decides for death but the outer personality resists death],
	the outer personality
	may indeed take a favorable direction
	where every possibility exists
	for the task fulfillment.
	Aspects of that personality
	may, however,
	cause
	so much
	• trouble and
	so much
	• resistance,
	that in spite of
	the propitious circumstances [i.e., the propitious
	circumstances supporting task fulfillment],
	the outer personality
	may
	not
	<i>want to live</i> [i.e., not want to live and work to
	fulfill its task].
	The person may
	ignore
	the favorable direction
	<i>because it</i> [i.e., because the favorable direction]
	is so deeply enmeshed
	with aspects of the problem
	that the whole is blurred.
1	

For example, *if the outer personality* refuses to give up stubbornness, [then] the isolated areas that have not been worked out remain • obscure and • frightening, and the person starts feeling hopeless, without any real cause. Part of the dishonest "game" may be to aggrandize the suffering in order not to • "give in," not to • look for new approaches to • the self and • life. The self-perpetuating principle accelerates the psychic nuclear point so much that the personality finally believes in its hopelessness. Thus the outer personality finds itself unwilling to move, even though it could [i.e., could move and fulfill its task].

	The
	• inner,
	• real,
	divine self
	• knows of
	the very favorable circumstances
	and
	• is totally in favor of
	a continued life [i.e., a life where the life task could be fulfilled].
	But
	the outer self
	willfully destroys this life,
	acting out
	its worst impulses
	despite
	all its favorable manifestations.
	Thus
	the personality
	fragments itself
	so much
	that
	extremely destructive manifestations
	will take place.
	In extreme cases,
	this may lead to
	suicide.
35	
	When
	the total entity
	terminates life
	in any of these ways,
	it determines
	its subsequent life circumstances.



	Finding
	the most fitting
	• environment,
	• parents,
	• siblings,
	• friends,
	• contacts in later life,
	and
	• many other variables,
	that you cannot possibly envisage
	requires
	exacting research.
36	
	You must also imagine
	that all other people
	who make contact with the person
	must equally be figured out.
	Each contact
	opens
	many possibilities.
	Will these individuals
	interact
	from their higher selves?
	Will their lower selves
	affect one another?

How much should each higher self infuse its • guidance, • inspiration and • energies? **Too much** [i.e., Too much infusion of the higher self's guidance, *inspiration, and energies*] becomes pointless, and the personality aspect may just as well not have embodied itself. The most sophisticated computer of your present-day science could never figure out all these details. Nothing is left to chance. The total plan surpasses human • understanding and • expertise. *I have said in an early lecture* [See: Lecture 34 – Preparation for Reincarnation], that an entire • sphere, or • world, deals with exactly this task. A hierarchy of highly developed spirit beings are experts in this field, and their task is to figure out these life plans.

37	
	The fluid system
	of the energy body
	carries the plan within itself.
	It [i.e., The life plan]
	is always
	• visible,
	• available and
	• recognizable.
	There are no secrets about it [i.e., no secrets about the life plan].
	It [i.e., The life plan],
	in turn,
	has great
	• energetic and
	• magnetic
	power.
	It [i.e., The life plan]
	is the most powerful magnetic field
	an individual
	• is born with and
	• carries through life.
	A being
	• does not and
	• cannot
	arbitrarily choose
	a future incarnation.
	The stage is set
	as a result of the last incarnation.
	• How much
	was fulfilled
	and
	• what
	remains to be done?

	• What contributed to
	the failures
	and
	• what to
	the proper execution?
	• Where may
	more challenge be needed
	and
	• where
	less?
	The plan for future embodiments
	is determined
	by the
	• life
	and
	• death
	process
	outlined in this lecture.
	• Time,
	• place
	and
	• circumstances,
	the exact setting of the stage,
	must be painstakingly figured out
	to fit the total plan.
38	
	To the degree
	the life and death process
	fulfilled the contract
	from the total entity's point of view,
	the future life –
	in your terms –
	will create
	a greater connectedness
	with
	the eternal being
	that you are.

The • life forces, • fluids and • various energy currents of your total entity will infuse the manifesting personality accordingly; *that is, [i.e., the various aspects of your total entity will infuse the manifesting personality*] to the degree the plan has been fulfilled. Conversely, to the degree you turn away from the • task fulfillment, from the • inner connection • where it [i.e., where the inner connection to your total entity] is most needed, • *where it* [*i.e.*, *where the inner connection to your total entity*] seems most difficult at first, [to that degree] you weaken the bridge that allows the • energies, • consciousness and • the currents of eternal life to infuse you.

that much more difficult:	
• The outer personality	
must make	
all the efforts;	
• <i>it</i> [i.e., the outer perso	nality]
has to gather	
its own forces	
	nnected state
to establ	<b>ish the bridge</b> [i.e., the bridge to
	your inner total entity, to the real self].
That	
is the inexorable law.	
Separated consciousness	
must discover	
its own potential	
to	
<ul> <li>change direction</li> </ul>	and
• transcend its nar	row confines.
You can apply all this	
to the lecture I have given about	ut
the psychic nuclear points	[See Lecture 214 - Psychic Nuclear Points
The creation	
has to be set in motion	
until it takes on	
its own momentum.	

39	
	When the outer personality
	has finished a series of embodiments
	in which it has consistently
	weakened
	its connection to the real self
	by willfully going
	in the opposite direction [i.e., in the direction
	opposite to the direction of the real self],
	then the personality
	• cannot
	feel
	its intrinsic connectedness [i.e., its connectedness to the real self]
	and
	• believes itself
	to be a
	totally separate being.
	This is a familiar picture for you.
	• You and
	<ul> <li>many people you know on this path</li> </ul>
	still often
	experience yourself
	<i>in this way</i> [i.e., <i>experience yourself as a totally separate being</i> ].
	Then
	the effort you need
	to
	• <i>re-establish connection</i> [i.e., to re-establish connection to the real self], to
	• probe the black spots,
	where it seems most difficult,
	is much greater.



40	
	This infusion of energies
	from the inner being,
	interpenetrating the outer personality,
	is directly connected with
	the willingness to go through
	what seems most difficult.
	<i>This</i> [i.e., The level of your willingness to go through what seems most difficult] <i>is truly</i>
	a very simple gauge for you.
	With this gauge [i.e., With this gauge, that is, with seeing your level of willingness to go through what seems most difficult,] you will find all the answers.
	au the unswers.
	<b>You will then</b> [i.e. When you see your level of willingness to go through what seems most difficult, you will then]
	be able to use
	the already manifest
	connection with the eternal consciousness
	to open the mind
	to more
	and more
	possibilities.
41	
41	Let us look at this
	in a more specific way.
	You all know
	from past experience
	how easy it is
	to believe
	that there is no way out
	when you are in a difficult spot.

```
The moment you
    blindly assume,
        either
           • consciously
        or
           • unconsciously,
        either
           • directly
               through your thinking process
        or
           • indirectly
               by the way you
                  • act
                 and
                  • react
                      in your situation,
                         that no solution exists
                             but the negative one
                                that creates
                                    • hopelessness and
                                    • pain,
you have closed your
    • inner
  and
    • outer
        mind
           to any alternatives.
First the
     • disconnected,
     • conscious
        mind
            must make a
               deliberate effort
                   to be ready for
                      other possibilities.
```



42	
	Another
	equally important aspect
	of changing the tide is
	identification,
	which I have also discussed
	<i>in the past</i> [See Lecture 195- Identification and Intentionality:
	<i>Identification with the Spiritual Self to</i> <i>Overcome Negative Intentionality</i> ].
	When you
	totally identify with
	gloom and doom,
	you
	• perpetuate
	the negative creation and
	you
	• strengthen
	the imaginary separation
	from all that
	<ul> <li>has meaning and</li> <li>is good.</li> </ul>
	• is good.
	The
	• negative creation,
	the
	• negative psychic nuclear point,
	makes it increasingly difficult
	for you to discover
	that you are
	more than
	the part of you
	that feels this hopelessness.
	So when you
	feel
	hopeless
	it is important to realize
	that you now
	identify with
	your hopelessness.

When you feel • self-rejecting, • guilty and • bad. it is important to realize that you now identify totally with the part of you that • is unpurified and • hates itself. The moment you realize this [i.e., The moment you realize that you identify with the part of you that is unpurified, that hates itself, and that is hopeless], it makes a great deal of difference. You can then take the next step by asking yourself, • "Is there no other possibility? • Is this really all there is for me? • Am I not also something else?" I don't mean [i.e., I don't mean by "Am I not something else?"] something that still appears remote. You cannot vet *experience the reality of* your divine self [i.e., Because your divine self still APPEARS remote you cannot yet experience its reality, so your "divine reality" is not what I mean by "something else"].

But even in your conscious mind, are you not also something else?

You

do have the possibility of seeing this situation differently, maybe by merely opening your mind to another train of thought you have not yet tried, but which you certainly can.

## **Opening the doors of the mind**

is exceedingly important in changing the tide, because

## the fragmented consciousness must find its way back

on its own,

since it is not aware of its essential connection with the divine.

And

only through the means of the disconnected mind can the bridge to the divine be established.

And as you establish the bridge, you increasingly allow your fragmented consciousness to be infused with the powerful energy of your eternal being.



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