Pathwork Lecture 222: Transformation of the Lower Self

1996 Edition, Original Given: May 29, 1974

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 https://www.garyvollbracht.com/pathwork-lectures-devotional-format/

Gary Vollbracht

¶	Content
03	
	• Blessings,
	• greetings,
	• love and
	• help
	are pouring forth
	in a wonderful golden stream
	that
	• permeates your
	inner being and
	that
	• your outer personality
	can connect with
	if
	you so choose.
	My dearest friends,
	in this last official lecture of your working season,
	I will once again
	give a resume of
	what you have accomplished.

```
Of course this [i.e., Of course giving you a resume of what you have accomplished]
                   can be done
                       only in an
                          • overall,
                          • general
                               way,
              but I will try
                   to consolidate your progress
                       concisely.
              This past year
                   has been very meaningful
                       for all of you.
04
              In an earlier summary
                   I told you that
                       after having

    recognized and

                          • dealt with
                               deeper levels
                                  of your lower self,
                                      · you would be able to establish
                                         more contact with
                                            your higher self,
                                    and that
                                      • some of
                                         your lower-self aspects
                                              would be transformed.
              This [i.e., Being able to establish more contact with your higher self and
                               being able to have some of your lower-self aspects transformed]
                   marks a decisive new phase on your path,
                       since previously
                          it was grueling hard work
                               to get through your defenses
                                  to really
                                      • see and

    accept

                                         your lower self
                                              in a
                                                 • realistic and
                                                 • constructive
                                                     spirit.
```

```
Years went by
                   before
                       the first steps of
                          the transforming work [i.e., the work of transforming
                                                             some of your lower-self aspects]
                               could begin.
              Last year
                   was the first step
                       in this new phase.
              It [i.e., This new phase of your work of transforming
                                                             some of your lower-self aspects]
                   has just begun,
                       but will continue
                           to a much greater extent
                               as you continue on your path.
05
               You may imagine
                   what this [i.e., what transforming some of your lower-self aspects]
                       means
                           in terms of
                               ever increasing
                                  • joy,
                                  · love,
                                  • peace,
                                  • security,
                                  • strength,
                                  • creativity,

    deep friendships and

                                  • unity.
```

```
Even these
    first steps
         of transforming work
            have already
                changed
                   your
                        • relationships,
                   your
                        • experiences,
                   your
                        • community,
                   your
                        • sense of
                           • well-being and
                           • meaningfulness
                               in life.
You are often
    startled by
         this change [i.e., by this change in your life experience brought about
                        by the transforming of some of your lower-self aspects].
It [i.e., This change in your life experience brought about
                        by the transforming of some of your lower-self aspects]
    sometimes seems
         miraculous,
yet it [i.e., yet this seemingly miraculous change in your life experience so far]
    • is merely
         a beginning
  and
    • so much more
         is yet to come.
```

```
06
              The increasing
                  • inward
                and

    outward

                       abundance
                          you experience
                              as a result of your pathwork
                                 • gives your life
                                      a much more specific focus
                               and
                                 • increases your awareness of
                                     your incarnatory task.
              The abundance
                  also manifests
                       in your relationships with each other
                          in the community
                              you have begun to establish.
              You can see
                  a visible change [i.e., a visible change in your relationships with each other
                                                    in the community you have begun to establish].
              Where
                  before
                       there was often so much
                          • dissension,
                          • disconnection,
                          • misunderstanding and

    negativity

                              among you,
                  more and more
                       you experience
                          • understanding,
                          • warmth,
                          • acceptance,
                          • love, and
                          • true friendship.
              You have learned to a considerable degree
                  to deal with
                       the dissensions
                          that are sometimes inevitable.
```

```
You have recognized
    that
         • dissension
           with others
    is merely a reflection of

    dissension

           within yourself.
You now
    can put into practice
        what I have taught you all these years:
                As you
                   unify
                       • yourself,
                you
                   unify
                       • your relationships with others.
                As you
                   recognize
                       • the best
                     and
                       • the worst
                           in
                               • vou
                                  in proper proportions,
                you
                   recognize the
                       • best
                     and
                       • worst
                           in
                               • others
                                  with equal realism.
```

The progress is obvious.
is obvious.
• What were
previously
words,
teaching a way of living
that
could become reality
if you followed the path,
and
• what was
a beautiful-sounding
• theory or
• philosophy
for you,
<i>Jo. Jou</i> ,
has now become
a reality.
·
The theory
has indeed been put to the test,
and
the result
is visible.
In the recent past
you have
experienced
a great deal together.
You have learned to
open yourselves
to one another.
You have
lost a considerable amount of
• shame and
• resistance
to baring yourselves
to one another.

```
And thus [i.e., And by having learned to open yourselves to one another and by
                               having lost a considerable amount of shame and
                              resistance to baring yourselves to one another]
    the loneliness
        you all suffered from
            has begun to disappear,
                sometimes
                   by giant steps.
You now know
    that your
        loneliness
            can never be relieved
                by
                   another person's love
                       as long as
                          you
                               • stay in
                                  · hiding and
                                  • separation
                             and
                               • keep up your pretenses.
Many of you
    have laboriously
        stripped off
            • this separation and
            • these pretenses
                to quite an extent,
and to that extent
    you find yourselves
         • in warm communion
            with others,
        • no longer lonely.
So you
    truly
        begin to share.
You have shared
    • sorrow
and you have shared
    • joy.
```

```
You have shared
    your doubts about

    yourselves and

         • your lives.
You have shared
    your pain about

    yourselves and

         • each other.
You have shared
    your burdens of
         • guilt,
and you have begun to share
    the pleasures of
         • love and
         • truth.
         For there could be
            no greater pleasure
                than sharing
                   • love and
                   • truth
                       as a result of
                          the other sharing.
You have tested
    the exhilaration of
        such rich living.
You can
    indeed
         create
           paradise on earth
                   you do not shy away from
                       the labor of
                          purification work.
```

	But soon
	the work itself
	becomes
	• the exhilaration and
	• the joy;
	it [i.e., the work of purification itself]
	ceases to be
	• painful and
	• difficult.
	You also find this out [i.e., You also find out that the work of purification ceases to be painful and difficult]
	as you progress.
09	
	That [i.e., The work of purification]
	is the work
	you must continue.
	You have made
	a wonderful beginning
	in this transforming work,
	but
	much more is to come.
	much more is to come.
	And as more transforming work takes place,
	you will,
	• individually and
	• as a community,
	create
	• more real,
	• deeper,
	• more beautiful
	relationships;
	• more sharing;
	• more creative
	experiences;
	• more meaningful
	self-fulfillment.

```
[As more transforming work takes place]
                  • Your spiritual self
                       will
                          • manifest more and more
                          • make you
                              experience
                                 its [i.e., make you experience your spiritual self's]
                                      eternal
                                         reality.
                  • You will become
                       the nucleus of
                          a new culture,
                              as I have occasionally hinted at.
              You are pioneers.
              Other groups of pioneers
                  are springing up
                       in various corners of the earth,
                          each
                              in their own way.
10
              As you
                  • overcome
                       your resistances
                and
                  • learn
                       not to give in to
                          the line of least resistance,
              your
                  • joys and
              your
                  • deep awareness of
                       the meaningfulness of
                          your
                              • life and
                          your
                              • task
                                 will increase.
```

```
I have said such [promising] words often,
                  but they were
                       more of an announcement of
                          what
                              could
                                 be.
              Now
                  it is different.
              For many of you
                  these [promising] words
                      are
                          a living reality
                              that you
                                 experience
                                     right now
                                        in your life, day by day.
              And
                  this reality
                       can become
                          • deeper and
                          • stronger
                              if you so choose.
11
              This lecture
                  will give you
                       • a plan and
                       • another means
                         for proceeding further with
                              your transformation.
              New understanding
                  on a deeper level
                       is required
                         for this transforming work,
                              which [i.e., this new understanding on a deeper level
                                                           and the resulting transforming work]
                                 will become easier
                                     once you understand
                                        what I shall now try to convey to you.
```

```
12
              Those of you
                  who
                       have
                          • gone into the depths and
                       have
                          • bared aspects of your lower self,
                       have
                          • brought
                              your negative intentionality
                                  out in the open
                                      where you could
                                         • expose it,
                                         • express it, and
                                         • see it for what it was,
              have learned
                  the positive side
                       of this process;
                          namely,
                              that it [i.e., namely, that this purification and transformation
                                      process that that has required you to expose and express
                                      your negative intentionality and to see it for what it was]
                                 frees you.
              You can
                  acknowledge
                       these negative aspects
                          without
                              • becoming downcast and
                          without
                               • believing that they [i.e., without believing
                                                            that these negative aspects]
                                  are the true you.
```

```
Quite the contrary [i.e., Quite the contrary to believing that theses negative aspects
                                 you have exposed and expressed are the true you],
    when you do this [i.e., when you expose and express
                       your negative intentionality and see it for what it was]
        vou
            experience
                the truth I have always given you:
                   When those negative intentions
                        are secret
                           even from your conscious mind,
                   you also secretly believe
                        that you are
                           all bad.
                   This [i.e., This secretly believing that you are ALL bad]
                        manifests
                           in self-destructive patterns
                               you do not understand,
                   and you cannot trace them [i.e., you cannot trace
                                                      these self-destructive patterns]
                        to their origins
                           unless and until
                               you have the

    courage and

                                  honesty
                                       to first
                                          bare
                                              the negative intentionality
                                                  very specifically.
                   Then, [i.e., Then when you thus bare the negative intentionality]
                        lo and behold,
                           something unexpected
                              begins to happen.
                   You

    accept and

    respect

                           vourself more and
                        • know that these patterns
                           are only a minor part
                               of your total self.
                   You can
                        identify aspects of the lower self
                           without totally identifying with them.
```

```
13
              On the negative side,
                  you have found out
                       that
                          in these lower-self aspects
                              resides
                                  a senseless stubbornness
                                      that still controls you to a degree,
                                         in an almost incomprehensible way.
              In your clear-thinking mind
                  you know perfectly well
                       that it does not make sense
                          to hold on to
                              a negative intention.
              You have experienced
                  in other areas of your life
                       • the bliss and
                       • the safety
                          of
                              • letting go
                             and
                              • letting God.
              You also
                  begin to
                       • make the connections conscious [i.e., make conscious the connections
                                             between your lower self aspects and your
                                             corresponding negative life manifestations]
                     and
                       • see what price you pay
                          for persisting in the negativity.
              Yet
                  you do not wish to abandon it [i.e., you do not wish to abandon the negativity
                                                                      of your lower-self aspects].
              You are puzzled by
                  your own attitude -
                       and here
                          you are stuck.
```

```
14
              Why do you
                  persist in
                       a life-denying attitude?
                               That attitude in you
                                  says
                                      no
                                         to giving in
                                               to
                                                 • the meaning of life,
                                                 • beauty,
                                                 • love.
                                                 • truth,
                                                 • expansion,
                                                 • joy and
                                                 • peace.
                               It [i.e., That attitude in you]
                                  refuses
                                      to surrender to God.
              This attitude [i.e., This attitude in you that refuses to surrender to God]
                   always
                       applies to a
                          • specific area
                               where
                                  the lower self
                                      does not wish
                                         to budge.
              It is therefore
                   not enough
                       to make
                          your goodwill
                               known to your consciousness
                                  in a general way.
              It [i.e., Making your goodwill known to you consciousness]
                   must be specific.
```

```
15
              Wherever
                   this mysterious stubbornness
                       prevails,
              you are still
                   controlled by
                       your lower self.
              But
                   at least
                       you know it now,
              and that [i.e., and knowing that you are still controlled by your lower self]
                   is an important step.
              You
                   do need help here,
                        my friends,
                          precisely at this point [i.e., You do need help at this point where you
                                              know that in a specific area of your life you are
                                               controlled by your lower self but do not know why],
                               where quite a few of you have arrived.
              If you bother to
                   deal with
                        this attitude [i.e., deal with this attitude in you that refuses
                                       to surrender to God in a specific area of your life]
                           rather than
                               • gloss over it,
                               • rationalize it away, or
                               • make yourself oblivious to its existence,
              vou come to
                   an important point.
              You
                  • see,
              but fail to
                  • understand,
                       this truly senseless behavior
                           of a part of yourself,
              and you
                   • even see
                        that you have chosen
                           not
                               to do battle with it [i.e., that you have CHOSEN NOT to do battle
                                                with this specific negative aspect of your lower self].
```

```
You have just
                   • given in and
                   • become victimized
                          your own lower self [in this specific area].
16
              But this [i.e., But this giving in to and becoming victimized by your own lower
                          self in a specific area of your life where you refuse to surrender to God]
                   need not be so.
              When you can
                   begin to question this [i.e., When you can begin to question why you give in to
                                      and become victimized by your own lower self in a specific
                                      area of your life where you refuse to surrender to God],
              then you have already
                   made another substantial step
                       in the right direction.
              For example,
                   ask yourself questions like:
                        "Why do I
                          refuse to
                               • surrender to God and
                               • give up my lower self
                                 for what I
                                      know
                                         to be

    happiness,

                                              • abundance, and
                                              • bliss?
                       Why do I settle for
                          the puny satisfaction
                               of
                                  • my spite,
                                  • my destructiveness and
                                  • my selfishness, or
                                  • whatever trait is in me
                                      that obstructs
                                         my true happiness?
```

```
What
            in me
                makes me
                   so destructive?
         How much
            do I really pay
                for allowing this [i.e., really pay in a specific area of my life
                                      for allowing my lower self to control me
                                      rather than surrendering to God]
                   to happen?
        Isn't there a way
            to change
                this inner course?
         Knowing
           the beauty of life,
                why
                   do I still deny it?
         Why can I
            not
                affirm
                   • life and
                   • God and
                   • the flow of creativity?"
These questions
    will lead to
        specific
            • answers and
            • clarifications.
They [i.e., These questions]
    must be

    asked and

        • taken seriously.
They [i.e., These questions]
   puzzle
        all those
            who arrive at this juncture.
```

```
17
              This lecture
                  deals with
                       these questions.
              I have often mentioned, my friends,
                  that there is
                       a countermovement
                          in you.
              One movement
                  • embraces life
                and
                  • longs for the divine.
              But
                  the countermovement
                       denies
                          all that [i.e., denies all life and the divine].
              It [i.e., The countermovement]
                  wants
                       to remain in darkness,
                          in spite of
                              the obvious pain
                                  that this [i.e., the obvious pain that remaining in darkness]
              It [i.e., The countermovement]
                  insists on
                       living life
                          on its own terms,
                              even though
                                  its terms
                                      are
                                         • life-denying and
                                         • destructive
                                             for
                                                • the self and
                                                 • others.
```

```
This countermovement
                   has its history
                        in the creation [i.e., has its history within the creation process]
                               the ever-outflowing substance of life,
                                  penetrating
                                       the infinite void
                                          and thus
                                               bringing

    eternity and

                                                  • light
                                                      into the
                                                         • nonlife and
                                                         • darkness
                                                              until
                                                                 the void
                                                                     no longer exists.
              Eventually
                   the time will come -
                               to use this limited term [i.e., limited term "time"] -
                        when there will be
                           only
                               • light and
                               • life.
18
              Substances of
                   • consciousness
                 and
                   • energy -
                           the two inseparable aspects
                               of the
                                  eternal
                                       life spark -
                       get
                           • lost,
                           • separated from their source,
                               as it were.
```

```
The substance
    spreads into
         the void
and,
    in the outward-spreading movement,
         temporarily
            separates itself
                from
                    the whole.
In that state of separation [i.e., separation from the whole]
    it [i.e., that substance spreading into the void]
         will find,
            through
                its own
                    inner life spark,
                        all
                           its inherent godliness.
It [i.e., That substance spreading into the void, in its state of separation
                                                              from the whole,]
    has to
         battle its way through the
            • darkness and
            • distortion
                that are byproducts
                    of the separation [i.e. byproducts of the separation
                                                              from the whole].
So these aspects [i.e., these aspects spreading
                                into the void, separated from the whole,]
      of

    consciousness and

         • energy,
            now individual entities,
                temporarily
                    turn sour.
```

They [i.e., These individual entities of consciousness and energy, separated from the whole,] invert themselves; they [i.e., these individual entities of consciousness and energy, separated from the whole,] turn into • anti-matter, • anti-consciousness, • anti-energy. This is why there must be struggle to reawaken • divine matter, • divine consciousness, • divine energy. 19 From all the • beauty, • creativity and • goodness, this inversion creates • ugliness, destruction and • evil. There have been many names for this countermovement throughout history.

```
Those names [i.e., Those names given to the countermovement created
                       by the inversion of beauty, creativity, and goodness]
    can become
         obstacles
            in dealing with
                evil,
                   for they [i.e., for these names given to this countermovement]
                        have often been
                          misused,
                               creating
                                  further distortions.
They [i.e., Those names given to the countermovement created
                       by the inversion of beauty, creativity, and goodness]
    were used
         to
            • dominate,
         to
            • judge
         to
            • punish
         to
            • put down
         to
            • instill fear of
                • life and
                • God
         to
            • make a
                primitive charade
                   out of the

    wonders and

                        • miracles
                          of ongoing creation.
People therefore
    turn a deaf ear
        to terms such as
            • "good" and
                • "evil,"
            • "God" and
                • "the devil,"
            • "heaven" and
                • "hell."
```

```
Yet these expressions [i.e., these expressions "good" and "evil," God"
                                                    and "the devil" and "heaven" and "hell"]
                  merely describe
                       symbolically
                          a state of consciousness
                              that is very difficult to convey
                                 to a consciousness
                                      still immersed in
                                         a three-dimensional world.
20
              We from our spirit world
                  constantly seek ways
                       to convey to you
                          certain facets of reality
                              without eliciting
                                 inappropriate reactions
                                      that would thus
                                         limit
                                             your understanding.
              An unavoidable limitation exists however.
              Your vocabulary
                  is limited,
              so you must fulfill
                  your own part
                       in the mutual venture
                          of learning.
              As I grope
                  to find the words
                       best suited to a specific topic,
              you must try
                  not to allow
                       • prejudices and
                       • word associations
                          to create
                              a wall
                                 that would prevent you from taking in
                                      what I give you;
                                        for I am giving you
                                             a potent tool
                                                for your further development.
```

```
Do not
                   close off to a truth
                       I am privileged to help you perceive,
                           even if
                               you occasionally hear a word
                                  that evokes a
                                      negative reaction in you.
21
              Evil
                   exists
                        in degrees.
              Many varieties of
                   • distribution and
                   • intensity
                         of
                           • divine
                        and
                           • evil
                               manifestations
                                  exist.
                   • Consciousness
              and
                   • energy
                        aspects
                          are personified
                                in
                                  • entities or
                                  • individualities,
                               in
                                  • personalities,
                                in
                                  • living beings
                                      who have
                                          their separate aspects
                                              both of
                                                 • divinity
                                              and of
                                                 • evil.
```

```
The strength with which
                   the former [i.e., divinity]
                       can
                           • penetrate
                               the ego structure
                         and
                          • manifest
                               depends on
                                  the degree
                                      the latter [i.e., evil]
                                         has been transformed
                                              through evolutionary development.
22
              In some spheres of reality
                   the contrasts [i.e., the contrasts among the many various varieties of
                           distribution and intensity of divine and evil manifestations]
                       are infinitely greater than
                          those that you inhabit
                               in your state of development.
              In the
                   most highly developed
                       • spheres and
                       • states of consciousness,
                          the degree
                               of
                                  • goodness,
                                  • brilliance of
                                      • spirit or
                                      • mind,
                               of
                                  • beauty,
                                  • wisdom, and
                                  • love
                                      is totally beyond your imagination.
```

```
By the same token,
    there are
         • spheres of
            temporary
                reality
       and
         • states of
            consciousness
                in which
                   • ugliness,
                   • brutality,
                   • cruelty,
                   • numbness,
                   • limitation of mind -
                       including
                           • shrewdness,
                       as opposed to
                           • wisdom -
                   • hatred, and
                   • smallness of spirit
                       are likewise
                           beyond your imagination.
These separated beings [i.e., These beings very separated from the whole] –
                                      you might call them
                                         sub-humans –
    exist in a world of
        such darkness
            that indeed
                there seems no way out,
                   until,
                       as a result of
                           • long suffering and
                           • groping,
                               the mind
                                  • turns around and
                                  • starts
                                      • thinking and
                                      • expressing itself
                                         in a

    new and

                                              • different
                                                 way.
```

```
This [i.e., The mind turning around and thinking and expressing itself
                                                                    in a new and different way]
                  is the key,
                       a key that
                          seems too simple
                              to those in a state of
                                  • evil and

    suffering

                                      who
                                         insist
                                             that
                                                turning around
                                                     is
                                                        • very complicated or
                                                        • impossible to accomplish.
23
                   • Consciousness
              and
                   energy
                       always
                          create
                              • substance,
                              • matter and
                              • form
                                  according to
                                      their own nature.
```

```
The
                  • consciousness
                and
                  energy
                       in these evil states
                          are so

    condensed and

                              • thickened
                                 that they are
                                     more
                                        • material
                                     than
                                        • the matter you know,
              so that
                  in your present state of development,
                       • the higher
                     and
                       • the lower
                          states of
                              • consciousness
                            and
                              energy
                                 are equally
                                     imperceptible.
24
              In the
                  lowest state of development,
                       evil
                          is so strongly concentrated on the surface
                              that it is
                                 completely unaware of
                                     the divine nucleus.
              For these subhuman beings
                  there actually does not seem to be
                       an inherent divine nucleus.
              Only through
                  eons of development
                       does the nucleus
                         finally become apparent,
                              but only very dimly at first.
```

25	
	Human
	development
	is an in-between state.
	Beings in various degrees of development
	• incarnate and
	• fulfill themselves
	in other states.
	These degrees of development
	may seem to fluctuate considerably
	from your point of view,
	especially if you pick representatives
	from either extreme of the scale.
	Nevertheless,
	neither
	• the highest
	nor
	• the lowest
	degrees
	exist in
	the human state.
	You do not know
	the full extent of
	• good
	and
	• evil
	because
	your inner field of vision
	does not reach these levels.
26	
	The foregoing may seem to indicate
	that creation
	is split dualistically,
	something I always deny in my teachings.

```
As I will prove to you on a very practical level,
                   the split
                        does not really exist
                           in essence.
               But
                   on a level of
                        temporary
                           manifestation
                                it [i.e., the dualistic split]

    does exist and

                                   • must be

    recognized and

    dealt with

                                          for what it is.
27
               There is hardly any human being
                   whose
                        • lower self
                           could approach
                               the intensity
                                   of the evil
                                       that exists
                                          in the lower spheres.
               And
                   the now-manifest
                        • higher self
                           could not by any means approach
                                the
                                   • intensity and
                                   • beauty
                                       of the
                                          • true,
                                          • divine,
                                          • eternal
                                               existence.
```

```
I would also like to add here
    that
         manifest evil
            is not necessarily indicative of
                an overall
                    lack of development.
It is often quite
    the contrary.
• Active,
• virulent
    evil
         often indicates that
            the potential
                to develop
                   one's
                        divine aspects
                           has been
                               willfully neglected,
                                  so that
                                      the potent energy currents
                                          of the consciousness
                                              • invert themselves and
                                              • manifest
                                                 in an equally potent
                                                     negative way.
The
    spiritually
         • immature and
         • young
            appear in the human sphere quite often
                as having
                   • innocuous,
                   • ineffectual,
                   • primitive
                        minds,
                           with the herd mentality
                               that does not think independently.
```

```
This [i.e., Because those with spiritually immature and young minds
                               think with herd mentality and do not think independently]
                   is why
                       a severely disturbed human being
                          who exhibits some evil traits,
                               but who
                                  • already has a
                                      developed conscience
                               and therefore

    does not

                                      act out
                                         evil deeds,
                                              turns relatively quickly
                                                 into
                                                     a spirit
                                                          of
                                                             • light and
                                                             • power for the good,
                                                                once the mind
                                                                    has truly been affected.
28
              The distortion
                   that marks
                       separation from the divine essence
                          is only temporary.
                       It [i.e., The distortion that marks separation from the divine essence]
                          cannot last.
```

```
It [i.e., The distortion that marks separation from the divine essence]
                   is part of the process of
                       filling the void,
              and,
                   sooner or later through the ages,
                       the
                           • distorted,
                           • inverted,
                           • separate
                               • piece of
                                  • consciousness
                                 and
                                  • energy,
                               • the separate personality,
                                  must be
                                       • "filed down,"
                                       • purified
                                          through
                                              • experiences of living
                                              • increasing perception
                                                  until
                                                      its essence [i.e., until the essence of this separate
                                                              piece of consciousness and energy]
                                                         is rediscovered.
              And that
                   is the process of
                        evolutionary development.
29
               These things have been said,
                   sometimes in oversimplified terms,
                        by various religions.
              But do not forget, my friends,
                   that
                        religions,
                           when they first appear,
                               are channels
                                  that in some way
                                       communicate divine truth
                                          to humanity.
```

```
They [i.e., Religions]
    are
         later [i.e., After they first appear as channels that in some way
                                      communicate truth to humanity, religions are]
            often distorted.
They [i.e., Religions]
    may be
        flattened out
            because
                the mind
                   becomes lazy,
                       preferring
                           • handed-down rules and
                           • generalizations
                               that may
                                      or may not
                                  apply to
                                      one's inner state.
Even
    the truth
         of a spiritual law
            becomes
                a superficial statement
                   when it is
                        • not
                           independently
                               found
                                  through the process of
                                      • self-search and
                                      • self-confrontation,
                   but [rather is only]
                        • lazily accepted
                           on the surface
                               in order to
                                  avoid the
                                      • labor and
                                      • risks
                                          involved in
                                              personal growth.
```

```
This [i.e., Because a religion's truths in its spiritual laws are
                not independently found through the process of self-search and self-
                confrontation but rather are lazily accepted only on the surface in
                order to avoid the labor and risks involved in personal growth]
    is why
         religions
            lose
                their power of truth
                    after a while,
                        even though
                           they often start
                               as channels of truth.
All this [i.e., All this losing of the power of truths that are revealed through
                                                              a channel of truth]
    • must
  and
    • will
         be avoided here [i.e., avoided here in the channel that pathwork is]
            as long as
                you stay
                    dynamically involved
                        in your
                           • pathwork,
                        in your
                           • search, and
                        in your
                           • process of personal growth.
```

```
30
               The reason I tell you this now, my dearest friends,
                   is to make it clearer to you
                        what your life
                           means
                               in these terms.
               You,
                   as your higher self,
                        have
                           • taken on a task
                      and
                        have
                           • brought with it [i.e., brought with your task],
                                       into your embodiment,
                               an aspect of
                                   that anti-God matter
                                       with its
                                          inverted

    consciousness

                                             and
                                               • energy.
               You have brought it [i.e., You have brought this aspect of anti-God matter]
                   with you
                        into this incarnation,
                           where it is possible for you
                               to get
                                    to
                                       • know it [i.e., get to know this aspect of anti-God matter
                                                        you brought with you into this incarnation],
                                    to
                                       • deal with it [i.e., get to deal with this aspect of anti-God
                                               matter you brought with you into this incarnation],
                                 and
                                       • influence it [i.e., get to influence this aspect of anti-God
                                                  matter you brought with you into this incarnation]
                                          rather than
                                               be influenced by it [i.e., rather than be influenced by
                                                      this aspect of anti-God matter you brought
                                                      with you into this incarnation].
```

```
31
              This aspect [i.e., This aspect of anti-God matter with its inverted consciousness and
                               energy that you have brought with you into this incarnation]
                   has
                       its own
                          separate
                               • will and
                               • thinking
                                  processes,
                                      as you often find out
                                         to your
                                              · bafflement and
                                              • dismay.
              That [i.e., The fact that this aspect of anti-God matter that you brought into this
                               incarnation has its own separate will and thinking processes]
                   is the point where you often
                       get
                          • confused and
                          • stuck.
              Your
                   • consciousness or
                   • personality
                       must make many choices in this world,
                          including
                               which of the two wills
                                  to follow.
              You can choose
                   to allow the will of
                       the lower self
                          to control your whole person.
              Or you can choose
                   to align your
                       conscious
                          • mind and
                          • will
                               with
                                  the higher self,
                                      without
                                         pushing out of awareness the
                                              • will and
                                              • voice
                                                 of the lower self.
```

```
You also need to
                   think about
                        what it means

    when you follow

                               the lower self
                                   without questioning it,
                           • when you are still tempted to
                                • rationalize it [i.e., tempted to rationalize your following
                                                                                      the lower self]
                              and
                               • do nothing to challenge its will [i.e., do nothing to challenge
                                                                              the lower self's will].
32
              Now,
                   in none of you
                        does the lower self
                           approach anywhere near
                               the intensely destructive levels
                                   I discussed earlier.
              But
                   the lower self
                        is
                           always
                               destructive;
                                    otherwise,
                                       it would not be
                                          a lower self.
              It [i.e., The lower self]
                   may be destructive
                        in wanting to be
                           • malicious or
                           • ungiving.
              It [i.e., The lower self]
                   is destructive
                        by persisting in
                           its limited view
                               that
                                   what is selfish
                                       is good for the self.
```

```
It [i.e., The lower self]
    is destructive
         simply in refusing
            total self-surrender
                 to the

    divine consciousness and

                    • divine will
                        within you,
                            at every turn of your way.
You forget;
    you do not trust
         in this surrender [i.e., you do not trust in this total self-surrender
                                        to the divine consciousness and divine will
                                        within you at every turn of your way],
            even if
                you have already experienced
                    the blissfulness of it [i.e., the blissfulness in this total self-
                                               surrender to the divine consciousness
                                               and divine will within you].
But
    your forgetting
         is not really
            forgetting.
It [i.e., Your forgetting]
    is a deliberate intent
         of that other [i.e., deliberate intent of that anti-God destructive lower self]
            • will and
            • consciousness
                 that you carry within you.
Your outer mind
    alwavs
         has the choice
            to allow it [i.e., choice to allow that "other" anti-God will and
                                consciousness that you brought into this incarnation
                                and carry within you]
                 to rule you.
```

But you can also take the reins and be aware of that other will [i.e., be aware of that "other" will, that anti-God destructive lower self will that you brought into this incarnation and carry within you]: *Confront it* [i.e., Confront that "other" anti-God will]; counter it [i.e., counter that "other" anti-God will]. **Do not allow it** [i.e., Do not allow that "other" will, that anti-God destructive lower self will that you brought into this incarnation and carry within you] to • destroy your life and • waste • valuable life substance and • creative expression. It [i.e., That "other" will, that anti-God destructive lower self will that you brought into this incarnation and carry within you] does not have to make you miss out on the blissfulness of eternal life that increasingly filters into your life now. 33 **This point** [i.e. This point that you confront and counter that "other" will, that anti-God destructive lower self will that you brought into this incarnation and carry within you] is most crucial for your further intensified transformation work.

```
[In transformation work]
                  You do not
                       cast out any devils.
                       That [i.e., That in transformation work you cast out devils]
                          is a misunderstanding
                              of certain religious orientations.
              When the devils
                  are cast out,
              vou do
                  not
                       perform the task of
                          transforming.
              You may succeed
                  in casting out devils,
                       but the devils live on -
                                      maybe
                                         not attached to you,
                                             but they live on.
34
              Your lower self
                  can be transformed
                       and you have seen this happen, my friends.
              It [i.e., Transforming of the lower self]
                  is happening increasingly.
              This lecture
                  is geared to give you
                       • still better means
                          to achieve this transformation,
                       • tools that you could not have used
                          before you came to
                              this specific awareness.
```

```
The awareness
                   could be expressed like this:
                        "Here I see myself
                          wanting
                               to be destructive.
                       I see
                          • the pain
                               it causes me,
                          • the senselessness of it.
                       I know
                          that it need not be that way,
                       yet I
                          want
                               to go on being destructive.
                       I do
                          not want to give up
                                my
                                  • pride,
                                my
                                  • self-will or
                                  • fear
                                      and put them
                                         into the service of God."
35
              That [i.e., That I WANT to be destructive when I KNOW being destructive causes me
                              pain, that this is senseless and need not be]
                   is what is so puzzling.
```

```
In fact,
                   it [i.e., this situation of wanting to be destructive when you know being
                                              destructive causes you pain, and also of knowing this
                                              is senseless and need not be]
                       is so puzzling
                          to many of you
                               that you soon
                                  push it aside again
                                      and act as if it
                                         were not there.
              Then you take this
                   • in-between,
                   • half-aware
                       state
                          for granted.
36
              I shall now try to explain
                   as exactly as possible
                       with the tools at my disposal
                          what happens
                               when
                                  • consciousness
                                 and
                                  energy
                                      are being transformed.
              That [i.e., This understanding of what happens when
                                      consciousness and energy are being transformed],
                   too, will give you
                       • light,

    incentive and

                       • greater motivation
                          to put
                               all
                                  of your conscious being
                                      into the service of
                                         the divine consciousness
                                              that dwells deep within you.
```

```
37
              I have told you before [see Pathwork Lecture 219 - Christmas Message – Message
                               to the Children – Given Christmas Eve 1973, but not distributed
                               until March 1, 1974; the first half of this lecture is a series
                               of questions from participants about negative traits and the Guide
                               gives the original positive traits behind the negative traits' distorted
                              form of the original positive trait]
                   that there is a
                       • positive,
                       • divine
                          aspect
                               behind each
                                  • specific

    negative

                                       manifestation.
              You have asked me
                   what
                       • positive aspects
                          the specific negativities
                               are distortions of
                 and
                   what
                       • the original divine
                          • aspects or
                          • attributes
                               are.
              It is a good idea
                   to continue this exploration
                       in meditation
                          whenever
                               vou face
                                  a lower-self aspect.
              You have
                  forgotten
                       to pursue this approach,
              so vou often dwell
                   longer than necessary
                       on the
                          purely negative
                               manifestation.
```

```
When you begin to see
    these areas [i.e., these negative manifestations]
         of your lower self,
it is very important
    for
        your conscious mind
            to ask,
                "What was this trait
                   in its
                        • original,
                        • beautiful
                           version,
                               before it was
                                  • inverted.
                                  • distorted, and
                                  • made negative?"
In that way
    you
         • do not
            cut out
                the trait,
    but
         rather
            transform
                it [i.e., transform the negative trait];
    vou
         do not
            allow those aspects to rule you,
        nor do you
            • cast them out and
            • separate yourself from them.
        Instead you
             • truly fulfill the task of
                transforming
                   consciousness -
                               [that task] for which you have come to this earth.
```

```
38
              Let us say that
                  your stubbornness
                       resists
                          • dealing with
                               this aspect of self-work [i.e., dealing with this aspect of the work,
                                      namely, confronting and transforming lower-self aspects];
                   it [i.e., your stubbornness]
                       resists
                          • surrender to
                               the divine kernel.
              Could
                   this stubbornness
                       not be
                          • retained
                         and
                          • transformed into
                               a positive manifestation
                                  of your godself?
              If you
                   do not have to
                       cast it out [i.e., If you do not have to cast out this stubbornness
                                      that resists both confronting and transforming lower-self
                                       aspects as well as surrendering to the divine kernel],
              you will
                   not be so resistant [i.e., not be so resistant to dealing with this stubbornness]
                       because
                          you may
                               use
                                  this transformed stubbornness
                                      in a
                                          • new and
                                          • different
                                              way.
```

```
39
              If
                  • you find yourself being
                       selfish
                 and
                   • you believe you must
                       cast out the selfishness,
              it will be
                  impossible for you
                       even to
                          want to approach
                               the threshold [i.e., the threshold of dealing with your selfishness]
                                  where you seem to be stuck [i.e., stuck because you do not
                                      want to or know how to "get rid of" your selfishness and
                                      hence are stuck, not knowing how to move forward in life].
              But
                   if you know
                       that there is
                          a healthy selfishness
                               • that you have
                                  every right to pursue and
                               • that does
                                  not exclude
                                      • loving and
                                      · being generous,
                   then your
                       • resistance [i.e., your resistance to facing
                                                     and dealing with your selfishness]
                          will wane
                   and
                       • the devil in you
                          will turn into
                               an angel
                                  in this particular area.
```

Most of you, my friends,
• have forgotten
this very important tool [i.e., the tool of discovering the original positive
aspect behind lower-self traits so that you do not resist facing lower
self traits but rather transform them into their original positive form]
that
I have given you
and you
• have not
consciously used it.
Your
conscious application of it [i.e., application of this very important tool]
will make you
even more ready for
the universal abundance
available to you
as a result of
your transformation work.
your transformation work.
Begin to apply it [i.e., Begin to apply this very important tool]
now
• more consistently and
• in a more focused way.
in a more jocusea way.
You now know
quite clearly
that
your inability
to tolerate
the ever-increasing pleasure in your life,
to the point where you
often
still feel compelled
to destroy it [i.e., still feel compelled to destroy
the ever-increasing pleasure in your life],
is due precisely
1 *
to this problem [i.e., to this problem of not
using the tool of discovering the
original positive aspect of lower-self
traits so that you do not resist facing
lower self traits but rather transform them into their original positive form].
the ame into the air animinal manifine towns

This [i.e., Because you do not consciously use the tool of discovering the original positive aspect behind lower-self traits so that you do not resist facing lower self traits but rather transform them into their original positive form] is why

you cannot find your way to transforming negativity.

Once you begin

to solve this problem [i.e., solve this problem and start consciously using the tool of discovering the original positive aspect behind lower-self traits so that you do not resist facing lower self traits but rather transform them into their original positive form],

you will

experience

the glory of this work.

What was once

- negative,
- destructive,

and even

• outright evil,

will turn

- positive,
- constructive, and
- good.

What was once

• a dualistic conflict

will become

• a unification.

For example,

instead of seeing

unselfishness

versus

• selfishness,

you will truly see that

• healthy selfishness

is good

at certain times

and that there are times to be

· unselfish,

too.

It is very important to apply this approach specifically to all areas you deal with. This way consciousness is transformed while remaining an • intrinsically unique, • divine manifestation. 42 **Consciousness** does not change its • essence; it [i.e., consciousness] changes only its • expression. In experiencing and knowing this [i.e., In experiencing and knowing that consciousness does not change its essence but only its expression], your resistance [i.e., your resistance to facing and transforming your lower self aspects] will therefore lessen, since you will not fear that you will lose something that is intrinsically you.

```
And you will
                  experience
                       the aspect of yourself
                          that
                              • can decide
                                 the course of
                                     your attitudes
                           and
                              • can redirect
                                 your consciousness
                                      as
                                        the more valid you.
              At the same time,
                  the other part
                       that you are about to
                          transform
                              will become
                                 more
                                     and more
                                        like an appendage
                                             that you have brought with you
                                                as part of your task
                                                    of self-fulfillment.
              Consequently,
                  as you do the transforming work,
                       unification
                          occurs.
43
              In the process of
                  feeling
                       increasingly
                          • unified and
                          • conflict-free,
              you will
                  fully discover
                       the intense pain
                          of the conflict
                              you have labored under
                                 for so long.
```

```
Often
                  you will see
                       the complete picture
                          only when
                              the ill will
                                 is about to disappear.
              What was once
                  a conflicting "other,"
                              even though
                                 it was incarnated
                                      in your own soul substance,
                       becomes
                          one
                              with
                                 the divine
                                      in you.
44
              The energy
                  must likewise change.
              Energy
                  that emanates from the lower self
                          very slow moving.
              It [i.e., Energy that emanates from the lower self]
                  is often
                       • halting,

    condensed and

                       • heavy.
              Energy
                  can be perceived
                       with
                          all the senses,
              but
                  on a level
                       the conscious mind
                          is usually not aware of.
              Lower-self energy
                  is extremely unpleasant.
```

```
45
              As far as the
                   visual sense
                       is concerned,
                          some of you
                               can perceive
                                  energy emanations
                                      to a slight degree.
              People have sometimes
                  perceived the differences in
                       energy emanations -
                           in
                               • color,
                           in
                               • brightness,
                           in their
                               • pleasing hues.
              The difference is
                   quite obvious:
                       • The lower-self
                          energy emanation is
                               • dull or
                               • crass;
                       • it [i.e., the lower self]
                          gives off
                               distinctly unpleasant colors;
                       • higher self
                          emanations,
                                  in their
                                      • color and
                                      • brilliance,
                               convey
                                  • peace,
                                  • harmony,
                                  • joy and
                                  • bliss.
```

Perception of color on the level of spiritual reality is • not cut off from, but is always connected with and • expresses and • communicates attitudes. 46 Energy also has an auditory expression, but human beings do not hear it. If the entity is highly developed, the sounds of an emanating consciousness are extremely • beautiful and • harmonious. The sounds of a lower self are • disharmonious, • ugly and • displeasing to the inner ear.

47	
7	The same goes for
	all the other senses.
	an the other senses.
	The fuggueres of
	The fragrance of
	• purified consciousness
	is incredibly delightful,
	such as you cannot imagine.
	The adop of
	The odor of
	• impure consciousness
	is unpleasant;
	• it [i.e., the odor of impure consciousness]
	can be a stench.
48	
70	On the level of
	touch,
	energy
	is felt
	by other energy bodies.
	The average of
	The energy of
	the higher self
	is felt as
	• soft,
	• nurturing,
	• vitalizing;
	you bathe
	in the energy emanation
	of purified consciousness.

```
But the touch perception
                    of
                       • inverted
                       • negative
                          consciousness
                              is painful
                                 in every possible way.
              It [i.e., The touch perception of inverted negative consciousness]
                  can be
                       • cutting or
                       • scratching or
                       • itching or
                       • pinching -
                              many different kinds of pain
                                 can be experienced
                                     according to
                                         the specific attitude
                                             expressed by
                                                the energy emanation.
49
              There are
                  many other senses
                       that
                          • you do not know of and
                       that I can therefore
                          • not discuss.
              This will give you some idea however,
                  of how a personality's
                       inherent attitudes
                          express themselves in
                              energy
                                 through every sense.
```

```
In your
    dualistic sphere of consciousness,
         what you
            • see.
            • hear.
            • smell, or
            • touch
                 seems
                    most of the time
                        quite disconnected from
                           the extremely
                                • personal and
                                • specific

    attitudes and

                                   • energy emanations.
Everything
    • is chopped up
         into separate categories
  and
    • manifests in a disjointed way.
This [i.e., Everything being chopped up into separate categories
                                and manifesting in a disjointed way]
    is often
         confusing for the personality.
It [i.e., The personality]
    • gets tired of these separations
  and therefore
    • strives
         sooner or later
            for
                 a more unified
                    state of consciousness,
                        where

    what is perceived

                          is not separated from
                           • the essence,
                                even if it [i.e., even if the essence]
                                   temporarily
                                        manifests in
                                           negativity.
```

```
50
              So you see, my friends,
                  when you
                       experience a
                          • beautiful,
                          • highly elevated,
                          • joyous
                              state,
                  you must know
                       that your energy system -
                                      whether your conscious mind knows it or not -
                          perceives
                              all these energy emanations
                                 on all the sense levels I mentioned.
              But
                  when you are
                       • unhappy,

    heavy or

                       • depressed,
                  your own energy system
                       unites with
                          the similar energy system of others -
                                      whether they [i.e., whether the energy systems of others]
                                         are expressed
                                             • in the body
                                             · not.
              Your energy body
                  is influenced by the
                       • sights,
                       • sounds,
                       • odors,
                       • touching, and
                       • many other sense perceptions
                          of others.
```

```
There is a cross-fertilization.
               Your
                   negative state
                        influences others in a similar state
                           and vice versa [i.e., the negative states of others
                                                      influence a similar state in you],
                               each feeding the other.
               Your energy body's
                   experiences
                        are not clear to
                           the outer mind;
              the outer mind
                   merely registers
                        • displeasure,
                        • anxiety,
                        • heaviness.
51
               When you
                   transform
                       negative
                           • consciousness,
              you also
                   transform
                        negative
                           • energy.
               Your life
                   will be
                        of an ever
                           • increasing and
                           • extending
                               beauty.
              It [i.e., Your life]
                   • will be,
                 and
                   • already is,
                        like a blossom
                           that unfolds
                               in ever greater splendor.
```

```
As you

    overcome

                        each hurdle
                           of the lower self,
              as you
                   · commit yourself
                       forever more strongly
                           to the divine will
                               in you,
              so this blossom
                   will unfold
                        into never-ending fruition.
              So you
                   never need to fear
                        an end,
                          for there is
                               no end.
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              Be blessed,
                   my dearest ones,
                        be in peace.
```

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