Pathwork Lecture 164: Further Aspects of Polarity - Selfishness

1996 Edition, Original Given June 7, 1968

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/pathwork-lectures-devotional-format/

Gary Vollbracht

1	Content
03	
	Greetings,
	my dearest friends.
	As always,
	blessings stream forth.
	A blessing is a
	• current
	which is a
	• power,
	to be received by you
	to the extent you
	open yourself up to it,
	• knowingly
	and
	• willingly.
04	
	A person's
	unhappiness
	is almost always considered
	an indication of
	sickness.

```
Unhappiness
    is usually interpreted
         in a
            • wrong,
            • distorted
                way.
The result [i.e., The result of interpreting unhappiness in a wrong, distorted way]
    is that you
        fight
            • the manifestation
                of your
                   • inner being,
                        as though
                          the manifestation itself [i.e., as though the
                                              manifested UNHAPPINESS itself]
                               were
                                  the sickness.
It is, of course,
    quite true
         that if people were
            entirely in harmony with
                the universal forces,
         they would
            not be
                • sick,
                • neurotic,
                • unhappy.
But it is equally true
    that
         • sickness,
         • discontent and
         • disharmony
            are an indication of
                health.
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```
For it is precisely
    your
         • real self,
    your
         • spirit being,
            which
                speaks
                   through the
                        unhappiness,
                           sending
                               the conscious ego
                                  a message
                                       that
                                          something
                                              should be
                                                 different.
The real self [i.e., Your real or spirit self]
    says to
        the outer personality
                it is conducting [i.e., that the outer personality is conducting]
                   something
                        in a wrong manner.
This message [i.e., This message of unhappiness, this SYMPTOM from the real self
      signifying that the outer personality is conducting something in a wrong way]
    comes from
        • health
            and wants to
                reestablish
                   · health,
                   • well-being and
                   • happiness.
Truth in life
    equates with
        feeling good
            in the deepest possible way -
                        without reservations,
                           in joyful

    security and

                               • self-liking.
```

```
When you

    act and

                   • move
                        in life
                           in a way that is
                               conducive to such a state [i.e., conducive to a state of feeling good
                                              in the deepest possible way, without reservations,
                                              in joyful security and self-liking],
              the spirit being
                   of your
                       innermost core
                           is completely content [i.e., is content and does not send a message or
                               symptom of unhappiness or pain indicating there is a problem].
               Thus
                   • a neurosis,
                   • an unhappiness,
                        is in a
                           deeper sense
                               a sign of health [i.e., a healthy sign that something needs to be
                                       addressed to correct a problem in the outer personality].
05
               The freer
                   a person's
                        divine being,
              the less

    encrusted and

                   • hidden
                       it is,
              the more clearly
                   the outer personality
                       registers
                           its messages [i.e., registers the messages of the person's divine being].
              Sometimes this [i.e., Sometimes this registering of the person's divine being]
                   is experienced as
                        "having a conscience."
              Less-developed individuals,
                   whose real self is deeply buried,
                       register such signs [i.e., such signs or symptoms that something is amiss]
                           much less acutely.
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```
They [i.e., These less-developed individuals]
    • may go along for
        • extended periods –
      even
        • incarnations –
           without
                • feeling their inner discontent,
           without
                • registering
                   • qualms,
                   • anxiety,
                   • doubt or
                   • pain
                       about their
                          outer deviations from
                               the lawfulness of universal life.
They [i.e., These less-developed individuals]
    • do not register unhappiness
        when they
           violate
                their integrity
 and may even
    • feel a
         • temporary,
        • precarious
           sort of satisfaction
                when they
                  feed
                       the needs of
                          their destructive demands.
```

```
06
              Usually people

    overlook,

                or even
                  • ignore,
                       that neurosis
                          is, in itself,
                              a sign of a [i.e., a sign indicating and proving the presence of a]
                                 healthy spirit
                                      which rebels against
                                         the mismanagement of
                                             the outer personality.
              Thus the weight
                  is subtly shifted
                       relating to what is
                          • healthy [i.e., relating to what is HEALTHY – namely that one is
                                 HEALTHY, NOT sick, when one HEARS loudly the real self
                                 sending messages or symptoms of unhappiness or signs of
                                 neurosis when one violates one's integrity and outwardly
                                 deviates from the lawfulness of universal life]
                       and what is
                          • sick [i.e., and relating to what is SICK – namely that one is SICK, NOT
                                 healthy, when one does NOT HEAR and numbs out the real self
                                 sending its messages or symptoms of unhappiness or signs of
                                 neurosis when one violates one's integrity and outwardly
                                 deviates from the lawfulness of universal life],
                              so that the individual [i.e., so that the SICK individual]
                                 combats
                                      the very language of
                                         the healthy spirit [i.e. the HEALTHY spirit's message's
                                             language of unhappiness or neurosis when one
                                             violates one's integrity and outwardly deviates from
                                             the lawfulness of universal life].
              You then try to
                  adjust to
                       an unhealthy condition [i.e., ADJUST TO an UNHEALTHY condition by
                              continuing to numb out the spirit's messages of unhappiness and
                              continuing your life of violating your integrity],
                          in the assumption that
                              to rebel against it [i.e., that to REBEL against UNHAPPINESS,
                                       or the UNHEALTHY condition giving rise to unhappiness]
                                 is
                                      • immature,
                                      • unrealistic and
                                      • neurotic.
```

```
07
              Persons with
                   • immature,
                   • unrealistic
                       tendencies
                          also frequently
                               • strive away from
                                  self-responsibility,
                               · deny any sort of
                                  frustration,
                               • want to get by with
                                  • giving nothing
                                 and
                                  • receiving all.
              You certainly know that
                  these attitudes [i.e., you KNOW that these negative attitudes of striving away
                                      from self-responsibility, denying frustration, and wanting to
                                      get by with giving nothing and receiving all]
                       • are decisive factors
                          of the human personality
                     and
                       • have to be
                          • faced
                        and
                          • changed.
              But the strange thing is
                  that
                       the more people
                          • ignore
                               their birthright
                                 to be happy,
                        and
                          overlook
                               the messages of their spirit
                                  that want to
                                      set them in the direction of
                                         living according to these basic rights [i.e., living
                                              according to these basic rights of being happy],
                       the more they
                          want to
                               • cheat and
                               • get by with
                                  giving nothing.
```

```
In fact, it [i.e., In fact, the connection BETWEEN cheating and
                                      giving nothing AND seeking happiness]
    is a
        logical
           connection.
The more human beings
    believe they must
        sacrifice
           their fundamental happiness
                because
                   to do this [i.e., because to sacrifice their own happiness]
                          • "right,"
                          • "good," or
                          • "mature,"
the more
    they become deprived.
The inevitable
    further result [i.e., The further result of sacrificing their fundamental
                                      happiness and becoming even more deprived]
        is
           • secret destructiveness
         and

    ruthless selfishness

                somewhere underground
                   as far as
                       emotional inclinations
                          are concerned.
These underground tendencies [i.e., These underground tendencies of
                                      destructiveness and ruthless selfishness]
    may erupt
        at any moment.
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The greater
                  the suppression [i.e., The greater the SUPPRESSION of the messages from the
                              spirit for attaining one's birthright of happiness, messages of
                              unhappiness and neurosis when one violates one's integrity and
                              outwardly deviates from the lawfulness of universal life]
                       becomes,
              the greater
                  the contrast [i.e., the greater the CONTRAST of one's VIOLATION of one's
                            integrity and outward deviation from the lawfulness of universal life]
                       with
                          the false superimpositions [i.e., contrast with the false superimpositions
                                      of PRETENDING to be "right," "good," or "mature"]
                              is,
              [then]
                  the greater will be
                       the likelihood
                          of a

    breakdown,

                          of a
                              • violent eruption
                                  which the personality cannot control.
              We shall come back to this topic later in the lecture.
08
              Let us now take the example of
                  a human being
                       who neglects his or her
                          personal growth.
              Inevitably,
                  discontent
                       must follow [i.e., discontent must follow from neglecting personal growth].
              But
                  the conscious mind
                       mav be unable
                          to read
                              the message of discontent [i.e., unable to read this message of
                                             discontent from the real self, the message signaling
                                             neglect of personal growth]
                                 correctly.
```

```
The diagnosis
    is made according to
        the person's understanding of these matters.
Only too often
    professional help
         consists of
            trying to make patients
                accept
                   their condition [i.e., ACCEPT their condition of DISCONTENT],
                        in the belief that
                           their frantic struggle [i.e., their frantic struggle against
                                    experiences of their reality, of their discontent]
                               is exclusively
                                   • a rebellion against authority, or
                                   • a self-destructive maneuver against a
                                       • secure,
                                       • safe
                                          life.
The personality's resistance
    to recognizing the
         real cause [i.e., the REAL cause of their discontent, which is
                                       their NEGLECT of their personal growth]
            cooperates
                in leading the helper astray.
Fear of the
    consequences of
        total commitment to
            growth
                makes it
                   appear
                        more desirable
                           to be a recalcitrant child [i.e., more desirable to be a
                               defiant child, rebelling against personal growth].
All this [i.e., All this fear and rebellious resistance to personal growth]
    is even more misleading
        because, as mentioned before,
            such immature
                • rebellion and
                • self-destructiveness
                   actually exist as well [i.e., rebellion and self-destructiveness
                       exist in addition to that due to resistance to personal growth].
```

```
But they [i.e., But such immature self-destructiveness and rebellion that actually
                       exist per se, quite apart from one's rebellion against personal growth,]
                  are hardly ever the
                       cause
                          of the evil,
                               merely
                                  one of the effects [i.e., one of the effects of evil].
09
              You can see how easy it is
                  to be confused about
                       the subtleties of

    health

                        or
                          • neurosis.
              Neurosis
                  is
                       • simultaneously
                          • a sign of
                               • health [i.e., sign of HEALTH when a message is able to be heard
                                     from the spirit indicating that one is violating one's integrity
                                     and outwardly deviating from the lawfulness of universal life]
                             and of
                               • sickness [i.e., sign of SICKNESS, namely that one IS indeed
                                      violating one's integrity and outwardly deviating from the
                                      lawfulness of universal life, and hence one IS truly SICK];
                       • a message
                          leading people toward
                              feeling good again
                                  in themselves
                                      after having
                                         lost
                                              their proper course.
              This [i.e., This ability to see, accept and use a message of pain and neurosis BOTH
                      as a sign of SICKNESS (one is sick in violating one's integrity and outwardly
                      deviating from the lawfulness of universal life) AND as a sign of HEALTH
                      (the message, being HEARD, can lead people toward feeling good again)]
                  is, once again,
                       a demonstration of
                          transcendence of
                               duality.
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In the dualistic system
                   it is
                       either
                           • sickness [i.e., the condition IS either pain or neurosis]
                           • health [i.e., or the condition is health, meaning there is
                                                                      NO pain or neurosis].
              Neurosis is thus [i.e., Neurosis in the dualistic system is thus]
                   always
                       seen exclusively
                           as sickness.
               True as this is,
                   it is equally true
                       that it [i.e., that neurosis]
                               • coming from,
                           and
                               • striving toward,
                                  health.
              It is extremely important, my friends,
                   to approach
                       • yourself and
                        • your state of
                           • mind and
                           • emotions
                               • in this manner
                              and
                               • with this view.
10
               This brings me again
                   to the topic of
                       duality.
```

```
I repeat:
    your
         • tensions and
         • confusions,
    as well as your
        • suffering and
         • fears,
            are a result of
                the dualistic state of consciousness
                   in which
                        everything
                          is split in half;
                   in which
                       one half
                          is adjudged as
                               • good and
                               • desirable,
                        the other
                          as
                               • bad and
                               • undesirable.
This is
    always an
         • erroneous,
        • illusory
            way of
                • perceiving and
                • experiencing
                   life.
Opposites
     are
        not
            to be divided in this fashion,
                as I have shown you many times before.
```

```
Only when,
                       through your personal evolution,
                  vou
                       • transcend the opposites
                    and
                       • conciliate them,
                          can you reach the
                              unitive state.
              In order to
                  approach this state [i.e., In order to APPROACH this unitive state]
                       the opposites must be
                          • faced and

    accepted

                              as long as
                                 they
                                      appear
                                         as
                                             opposites,
                                                so that [i.e., so that, when faced and accepted,]
                                                    the inner tension
                                                       diminishes.
11
              Some opposites
                  are no longer experienced as
                       • one
                     versus
                       • the other,
                          even in your
                              dualistic sphere of consciousness.
              Humanity has sufficiently evolved
                  to have transcended some of the polarities.
              In such cases,
                  the average human being
                       no longer
                          experiences
                              one opposite
                                 as good,
                              the other
                                 as bad.
```

```
When I say "no longer," [i.e., When I say the average human being in a more
                               evolved state of consciousness "no longer" experiences one
                               opposite as good and the other as bad]
              I mean that
                  previous states of consciousness
                       existed
                          when this was the case [i.e., when the average human being DID still
                                      experience one opposite as good and the other as bad] -
                               with
                                  • all individuals
                               and in
                                  • all respects.
12
              Let us take, for example, the
                   • masculine
                and
                  • feminine
                       principles
                          I discussed in the last lecture [See Lecture 163: Mind Activity
                                                     and Mind Receptivity, given May 10, 1968].
              Only the person who is
                   very
                       • distorted,
                   very

    subjectively influenced and

                       • disturbed -
                               and even then it is hardly ever an overt manifestation -
                          will experience
                               one as
                                  • positive and
                               the other as
                                  • negative.
              The deep psyche,
                       in which
                          not all old obstructions are overcome,
                  still harbors
                       the division [i.e., the division between masculine and feminine]
                               • good
                            versus
                               • bad.
```

```
But generally,
                  and to a much larger degree,
                       the average person
                          experiences
                              these opposites [i.e., these opposites of masculine and feminine]
                                 in a truthful fashion.
              Both [i.e., BOTH masculine and feminine]
                  are seen as
                       intrinsically
                          • good and
                          • beautiful.
              They [i.e., The masculine and feminine]
                  complement one another
                       in a wonderful way,
                          making
                              one
                                 • unity,
                              one
                                 • whole.
              Both [i.e., Both masculine and feminine]
                  contain aspects of
                       the creative universe.
13
              Let us take a further example
                  where,
                         for a halfway healthy mind,
                       opposites
                          are
                              • transcended -
                          are
                              • no longer seen as
                                 • good
                                versus
                                 • bad.
                              but as
                                 • complementary facets,
                                      • both fulfilling their own function,
                                     • equal in beauty.
```

```
These opposites are
    the forces of
         • activity and
         • passivity –
            the

    expanding

               and
                • restricting principles,
                • initiating
               and
                • being receptive –
                        to refer to our most recent discussions [See again
                                       Lecture 163: Mind Activity and Mind
                                       Receptivity, given May 10, 1968].
There are many more
    dualities
         which are seen as

    complementary and

            • mutually fulfilling
        rather than
            • mutually exclusive -
                even in this predominantly
                   still dualistic state [i.e., in this dualistic state in which you live].
Everyone will consider
    • night
 and
    • day
        as mutually complementary manifestations of nature,
            both having their
                • value,
                • beauty, and
                • function.
Only the most distorted personality
    will consider
         • one
            as good
    and battle against
         • the other
            as evil.
```

14 These examples should make you sense that in reality it is this way with all opposites, even those that seem most difficult to comprehend in this way. I have attempted to show you that even a pair of opposites like health and • sickness does not, in reality, indicate • good versus • bad. **Both** [i.e., Both health and sickness] can contain both [i.e., can contain both good and bad, that is, health can contain both good and bad and sickness can contain both good and bad].

```
If

    health

         prevails
            while a person
                 violates
                    his or her spiritual needs
                        for
                            • growth –
                        for
                            • total feelings of love,
                        for
                            • the deepest experiences of
                                • happiness,
                                • pleasure,
                                • union with others –
if

    health

         continues
            while an ego
                 remains
                    • isolated,
                    • separated and
                    • unfeeling
                        for
                            • its own innermost self
                          and
                            • other people,
it is
   • not good.
Conversely,
    • ill health
         is
             • good
                 if seen
                    as a symptom
                         leading to
                            total
                                • health,
                                • fulfillment and
                                • happiness.
```

```
15
               Thus,
                   what is
                        • good
                 and
                   what is
                        • bad
                            is
                               not ever
                                   divisible,
                                       so that
                                          • one polarity is
                                               • one,
                                          • the other
                                               • the other.
              Each polarity [i.e., Each polarity, either good or bad,]
                    is
                        all
                           • good
                               when in its
                                   • natural,
                                   • undistorted
                                       state.
              Each polarity [i.e., Each polarity, either good or bad,]
                   is
                        • bad
                           when
                               • distortion and
                               • error
                                   set in.
16
               This [i.e., This fact that both good and bad polarities can each be good or bad]
                   is most difficult to
                        experience
                           with
                               the greatest polarity of all:
                                   • life
                                 and
                                   • death.
```

```
Perhaps the foregoing can help you
    begin to sense vaguely
        in a new way
            that it [i.e., that the fact that both good and bad polarities
                                                     can each be good or bad]
                can hardly be different
                   with this particular duality [i.e., with this particular duality,
                               the greatest polarity of LIFE and DEATH].
I must tell you, my friends, that
    the more you succeed
         in conciliating polarities
            about
                all sorts of aspects
                   • within your own soul system
                 and
                   • with your soul current,
    the more you will sense
        that it is no different with
            • life
          and
            • death.
Both [i.e., Both LIFE and DEATH]
    are
        good;
neither needs be
    • feared
    • fought against.
```

```
The more
                  • other polarities or
                  • dualities
                       • begin to unify
                     and
                       • are experienced
                          as vital functions of living -
                                             all
                                                • meaningful and
                                                • beautiful
                                                    in their own way -
              the more
                  this is bound to happen
                       regarding
                          • life
                        and
                          • death.
17
              There are many other opposites
                  that you cannot help but
                       experience
                          at this state of your development
                              as
                                 • good
                                versus
                                 • bad.
              To the degree you
                  have
                       • evolved,
                  have
                       • come into your own,
                  have
                       • realized your divine nature,
              to that degree
                  you cease to experience life
                       in this divided way [i.e., in this divided way of GOOD versus BAD].
              Only then [i.e., Only then when you CEASE to experience life
                                                    in this divided way as GOOD versus BAD]
                  can the soul
                       be peaceful.
```

```
Only then [i.e., Only then when you CEASE to experience life
                                      in this divided way as GOOD versus BAD]
    can soul movements
        he
            • relaxed
          and consequently
            • in a state of
                delight.
For

    tension

        breeds
            • unpleasure,
                making
                   • bliss
                       impossible.
Tension is inevitable
    as long as one is under the illusion
        that there are
            always
                new things to
                   fight against.
Soul currents
    close up
        toward
            all the good of life
                when an entity
                   believes itself in danger.
Since
    all opposites
        are
            constantly
                • "around,"
            always
                • "there,"
                   • deep within your self
                  as well as
                   • around you,
you live in a
    perpetual state of tension
         when you assume
            one opposite
                to be good.
```

```
18
              Since all of life
                  consists of
                       polarities,
              the fact that most of them appear as
                  mutually exclusive opposites -
                                      one being
                                         grasped at,
                                      the other being
                                          tensely denied -
                       puts people in a
                          constant state of
                               • painful tension,
                               • anxious grasping,
                               • needless denial.
              The consequences [i.e., The consequences of all of life consisting of polarities
                          and the fact that most of them APPEAR as mutually exclusive opposites]
                  are
                       • pain and
                       • frustration.
              This is all the more
                  confusing
                       when you believe
                          you have done right
                                  • fight against the
                                      bad
                                 and
                                  • grasp for the
                                      good.
              Why, then, [i.e., Why, then, when you believe you have done right to
                                             fight against the bad and grasp for the good,]
                  are you
                       so

    discontent,

                       so
                           • empty,
                       so
                           • lacking in the vital joys of life?
```

Such confusions [i.e., Such confusions over why you feel so discontent, empty, and lacking in the vital joys of life when you have fought so hard against the bad and grasped for the good] are rarely • conscious and • concise. If they were, it would be much easier to question and • challenge the premises that led to the distortions in the first place. *The difficulties* [i.e., The difficulties in trying to understand why you feel so discontent, empty, and lacking in the vital joys of life when you have fought so hard against the bad and grasped for the good] are truly illusory, as illusory as the split of • good versus • bad, **but they** [i.e., but these difficulties in trying to understand your situation] seem nevertheless real in all the discomfort they give. 19 The opposites people struggle with create a tremendous tension.

```
Humanity
    has been geared for
        centuries
            and centuries of its psychic existence
                to feel
                   • one opposite as
                        • good and
                        • right,
                   • the other as
                        • bad and
                        • evil.
Thus you
    inevitably
        get lost in confusion.
You
    • try to resolve
        all your personal problems
            on this basis [i.e., on the basis that one opposite is good and right
                                                      and the other is bad and evil]
 and, of course,
    • can never
        succeed,
    • can never
        find a real solution
            that gives you peace.
You approach
    all your personal alternatives of action
        in this fashion.
Thus
    the very premise you start from [i.e., the premise that one opposite is good and
                                               right and the other is bad and evil]
        is already the groundwork for
            • further and

    deeper

                • entanglement and
                • error.
```

```
20
              At times this tension [i.e., this tension created based on the premise that one
                                      opposite is good and right and the other is bad and evil]]
                  leads to
                       eruptions,
                          as stated before.
              At other times,
                  the two polarities
                       which
                          arbitrarily
                               seem to be mutually exclusive,
                                  annul one another.
              In the groping for a solution
                   with such erroneous premises,
                       one polarity
                          is always set off against
                               the other.
              Thus they [i.e., Thus the two polarities]
                   cancel each other out.
              In
                  truthful
                       perception,
                          both opposites
                               • are accepted
                            and
                               • function organically,
                                  mutually aiding each other.
              In the illusory perception of
                  mutual exclusiveness,
                       they [i.e., the opposites]
                          create a short-circuit.
              In the darkness of
                  the confusion,
                       the individual
                          is called upon
                               to make a choice [i.e., a choice between the opposite polarities],
                                  but cannot do so successfully.
```

```
When the distribution [i.e., When the distribution of various opposite polarities]
         uneven,
            in a
                • nonorganic,

    distorted

                    way,
eruption may occur.
When the distribution [i.e., When the distribution of various opposite polarities]
         • even,
         • balanced -
            again in a
                • non-organic,
                • distorted
                    wav –
all power currents
    become
         • inactivated,
         • short-circuited.
What the
    mind
         holds true [i.e., What the mind holds as true, namely that neither
                               alternative is satisfactory, and therefore neither can
                               be chosen fully,]
            actually happens:
                the two opposites
                   annul each other.
The further result of this state [i.e., this state in which the two opposites annul each
         other because the mind holds as true that neither alternative is satisfactory]
    is the
         • numbness,
         • lifelessness and
         • deadness
            of feelings
                that we repeatedly discuss in our work together.
```

```
We often discuss this

    numbness and

                   • deadness
                        in connection with
                           other more limited aspects -
                                  for example,
                                       fear of feelings.
              But isn't such a fear [i.e., such a fear of feelings]
                   based on precisely
                        such a dualistic struggle – the struggle against choice
                                       between polar forces in a person's inner life?
21
              A simple example
                   will also describe the basic
                        • Yes
                     and
                        • No
                           currents,
                               which we discussed before in different connections.
               The Yes current
                   represents
                        the
                           • affirmative principle,
                        the
                           • principle that
                               • expands,
                               • embraces,
                               • is

    open and

                                   • receptive
                                       to life.
               The No current
                   represents
                        the negating principle.
                   It
                        • pulls back,
                        • retracts,
                        • denies.

    shrinks into itself.
```

```
There is a general

    conviction and

    assumption

         that the
            • affirmative principle
                  is
                    • good and
                    • desirable,
         while the
            • negating principle
                  is
                    • sick,
                    • bad,
                    • undesirable.
Religion itself
    has made this division,
         explicitly representing
            • God
                as the
                    • affirmative,
            • the Devil
                as the
                    • negating power.
This is, at best,
    a half truth.
To blindly
    accept this division
         in the depths of one's
            unconscious reflexes
                means untold
                    • confusion and
                    • pain.
```

```
The moment one
                   is governed by
                       such an attitude [i.e., an attitude that says that the affirmative principle is
                               ALWAYS good and desirable, representing God, and that the
                               negative principle is ALWAYS sick, bad, and undesirable,
                               representing the Devil],
              one becomes involved in
                   errors
                       leading to
                          • further errors and
                           • misinterpretation of life,
                               until it becomes
                                  increasingly more difficult
                                      to extricate oneself from the maze.
22
              I will demonstrate this in the simplest possible way.
              Isn't it true
                  that to
                       • affirm
                          • an undesirable
                               condition,
                           • a destructive
                               attitude,
                     is as
                       • undesirable
                          as
                               • negating a
                                  • positive,
                                  • constructive
                                       • condition or
                                      • attitude?
```

```
To an individual
    geared
         only to
            affirm,
any negation
    would be experienced
         with pangs of
            • hesitation,
            · doubt,

    uncertainty and

            • guilt –
                even if
                   negation
                        is
                           • healthy and
                           • constructive
                               in a particular situation.
I am referring to
    very subtle levels of reactions,
         lodged in the
            • unconscious or
            • semi-conscious
                mind.
The next link
    in this chain reaction [i.e., The next link in this chain reaction for a person
                                                      geared ONLY to AFFIRM]
         is
            difficulty in

    asserting oneself,

            difficulty in
                • taking one's inherent rights as a part of creation,
            difficulty in
                • being healthily aggressive.
Such an individual
    feels compelled
            • always submit,
         to
            • never say No to
                any demands [i.e., any demands placed on him or her by others],
                   no matter how exploitative.
```

```
The
    • spinelessness and

    weakness

         of many people [i.e., of people who can ONLY AFFIRM and hence who
                submit to others, who never say No to any demands placed on them
                by others, no matter how exploitative those demands are],
            result from a
                deep-seated fear of
                   denying anything [i.e., fear of denying anything that another
                       asks of them, no matter how exploitative those demands are].
This [i.e., This deep-seated fear of denying anything that another asks of one,
                of always submitting to the desires of others in a spirit of obedience]
    is
        not
            real goodness -
                        based on
                           • free giving of love,
                        on
                           • the generous spirit of
                               wanting to give of oneself.
[i.e., Rather than REAL goodness,]
    It is a
         subtle fear
            of
                • making any self-assertion,
                • claiming anything for the self.
Such lack of
    • freedom and
    • selfhood

    decreases

            the capacity to
                love
       and
         • increases
            underlying
                • separateness
              and
                • selfishness in the destructive sense.
```

```
So you can see, my friends,
                  even with the
                       seemingly
                          • good
                         versus
                          • bad
                              of the
                                 • Yes
                              and
                                 • No
                                      currents,
                                         it is
                                             never
                                                • one
                                             versus
                                                • the other.
              You would be
                  totally mistaken
                       to adopt the
                          • affirmative principle
                              as an overall attitude
                                 for all contingencies
                   and
                       to negate the
                          • negating principle.
23
              I am showing once again
                  that the
                       dualistic world view
                          leads
                              to

    error and

                                 • suffering,
                              to
                                 • confusion and
                                 • tension –
                        and
                          [leads]
                              away from
                                 • all
                                      true solutions.
```

```
The conciliation
    of all polarities
        lies in seeing the
            good
                in both opposites.
This alone [i.e., Seeing the GOOD in BOTH polarities, in BOTH opposites]
    will lead to
         • truth.
        • reality,
        • health,
         • the unfoldment of
            universal bliss,
       and
         • expansion of consciousness.
This
    has been underlying
        all my lectures.
As we proceed
    further
         and further,
and as you go
    deeper within yourself,
it becomes
    increasingly important
        that you
            gradually
                reorient
                   all
                       your faculties
                           to living according to
                               the unified principle.
This [i.e., This gradually reorienting ALL your faculties to living according to
                                                         the UNIFIED principle]
    applies
        first
                • thinking processes,
        later
            to the most subtle
                • emotional reactions and
                • perceptions.
```

```
More
                  and more
                       you will come to the point
                           when you can embrace
                               both opposites
                                  in their
                                      • truthful,
                                      • real,

    healthy

                                         manifestations.
              More
                  and more
                       you will become attuned to
                          recognizing
                               their

    healthy

                                and
                                  • distorted
                                      versions [i.e., recognizing the healthy and distorted
                                                                    versions of BOTH opposites].
              You will
                  • feel,
              rather than
                   • judge,
                       which are which [i.e., which are the healthy and which are the distorted
                                                                    versions of BOTH opposites].
24
              In this same vein I should like to discuss
                  the very important topic of
                       selfishness.
              In the course of our work together
                   we have touched on this topic in various ways.
              Now I should like to be
                   • a little more explicit
                 and
                   • go a little deeper.
```

```
This extremely important topic [i.e., topic of SELFISHNESS]
    has a great many
        ramifications
            in each
                • human existence,
            in each
                • human psyche
          and inevitably, therefore,
            in each
                • outer life.
At the same time,
    the topic is a difficult one
         because it
            may easily mislead
                • childish,
                • self-centered,
                • falsely selfish,
                • separating
                   personalities,
                        who may desire to
                           proclaim their
                               • destructive selfishness and
                               • separateness
                                  as
                                       • health and
                                       • self-assertion.
```

This is why I have waited a considerable time before discussing this topic in detail.

```
Most of you, my friends,
have sufficiently progressed
in the capacity to
distinguish
between
• healthy
and
• destructive
selfishness,
```

so you will not fall into the trap of pretending that one is the other.

```
This trap [i.e., This trap of pretending that healthy selfishness is destructive
                               selfishness and destructive selfishness is healthy selfishness]
                   must be avoided.
               Then [i.e., Then, when this trap is successfully avoided]
                   the comprehension of these words [i.e., these words
                                                             I now say about selfishness]
                       will represent a great liberation for you.
25
               The universally accepted principle
                   is that
                        • selfishness
                           is
                               • wrong,
                               • bad,
                               • undesirable,
                   while all kinds of
                       • unselfishness
                           are
                               • laudable,
                               • good,
                               • right.
              One rarely makes the distinction
                   that
                       some forms of
                           • selfishness
                               are
                                  intrinsically
                                       • healthy
                                     and
                                       • right.
               They [i.e., These healthy and right forms of SELFISHNESS]
                   guard a person's
                       inalienable right to
                           • be happy
                         and
                           • protect their ability to
                               • grow,
                               • expand,
                               • evolve.
```

```
Concomitantly,
    one rarely notices
         that

    unselfishness

                can be a sick manifestation of
                   • self-destructiveness and
                   • weakness -
                        exploiting others
                           through
                               self-enslavement,
                                  just as one
                                       allows others
                                          to exploit oneself.
This [i.e., This form of UNSELFISHNESS, which is a sick manifestation of
                                              self-destructiveness and weakness]
    has little to do with
        genuine concern for
            the rights of others.
In fact,
    only the person
         who can be
            selfish
                in the
                    • right,

    healthy

                        way
                           is capable of
                               genuine concern
                                  for the rights of others.
```

26 Selfishness has a healthy origin. It says: "I am a manifestation of God. As such I am, in my • healthy, unobstructed state. a happy individual. For only a happy individual can • spread and • give forth happiness. Only an individual who grows according to his or her potentials and • life plan is happy. Thus happiness • the fulfillment of one's destiny are synonymous. **The one** [i.e., The one, either 1) happiness or 2) growing according to his or her potentials and life plan,] is unthinkable without the other. I am also a • totally free individual, autonomous and • completely responsible for the life I shape for myself.

```
No one else
                                 can determine
                                     my
                                         • life,
                                     my
                                         • growth,
                                     my
                                         • happiness.
                              I will not allow myself
                                 to subtly hitch this responsibility
                                     onto others by
                                         "buying them"
                                             with my
                                                • false unselfishness,
                                             through
                                                • enslavement,
                                             through
                                                • making myself
                                                    feel
                                                        so
                                                            unselfish
                                                              because
                                                                   I abdicate my rights."
27
              You cannot assimilate
                  this realization
                       deeply enough.
              Meditate on this
                  in the

    most personal and

    deepest

                          way
                              and see in what way
                                 you inadvertently
                                     deviate from
                                        such an attitude.
```

```
The more you
    come to express this
        • honest,
        • healthy and
        • self-responsible
           way of life,
the more you will
   feel secure in yourself,
        because
           security
                is found in being
                   anchored
                       within yourself.
Thus
    truth
        brings out the
           divine kernel,
                which itself
                   becomes your
                       anchor.
False unselfishness
    makes you
        lose this center.
You are then [i.e., In FALSE UNSELFISHNESS you are then]
    anchored in
        the other person
           for whom you sacrifice.
Whenever such attitudes [i.e., Whenever attitudes of false unselfishness]
    are truly faced,
it shows that
    never
        can
           such a sacrifice
                be made
                   in
                       • genuine love,
                   in a
                       • free spirit of
                          spontaneous giving.
```

```
When
    genuine
         love is present,
the idea of
    sacrifice
         is no longer applicable.
The act [i.e., The act of sacrificing out of a spirit of genuine love]
    is so
         pleasurable
            that it is
                as

    selfish

                as it is
                    • unselfish.
Unselfishness
    is
         selfishness,
            and vice versa [i.e., and selfishness IS unselfishness].
Sacrificial
    unselfishness
         always implies
            • an inner bargaining,
            • a secret desire
                to get away with something
                   underneath
                        an outer sentimentality [i.e., "unselfishness" governed
                                               underneath by excessive emotionality
                                               or ulterior motives]
                           that
                               pretends
                                   the act [i.e., PRETENDS the sacrificial
                                                               "unselfishness"]
                                       is good.
It [i.e., This sacrificial "unselfishness"]
    • is
         always
            loveless
  and
    · defeats growth.
```

```
28
              When you are anchored
                  not in
                       • your own real self
                  but in
                       • the approval of others,
                         through which
                              you hope to gain your
                                 • selfhood,
                                 • self-respect and
                                 • happiness,
              you
                  cannot comprehend
                      the messages of
                         your divine nature.
              You are
                  disconnected from
                      your vital life center.
              You flounder
                  in contradictory alternatives -
                              confused about
                                 what is
                                     • right or
                                     • not –
                                        for
                                             • you
                                           as well as for
                                             • those you are involved with.
29
              As a result of the
                  decentralization
                      of your being,
                         you pursue a path
                              in which
                                 • unhappiness
                                is equated with
                                 • unselfishness,
                              which is equated with
                                 • being a good person.
```

```
This error [i.e., This error of being on a path in which unhappiness is equated
                   with unselfishness, which is equated with being a good person]
    is only
        the beginning of
            a cycle of
                further errors,
                   creating many chain reactions
                       of
                           destructive
                               • emotions and
                               • attitudes.
To name only a few [i.e., To name only a few of these destructive emotions and
       attitudes in the cycle of further errors following the errors of equating
       unhappiness with unselfishness and unselfishness with being a good person]:
    • self-deception about
         what "being good" is;
    • dependency,
        which is also
            interpreted to mean
                • love for and
                • concern with
                   the person one is dependent on;
    · weakness,
    • helplessness,
    • false humility –
  therefore
    • rage,
    • anger,
    • rebellion.
The more these [i.e., The more these destructive emotions and attitudes]
    must be kept underground
        so as not to
            disrupt
                the false structure,
the greater
    the discrepancy
        between the
            • surface
        and the

    underlying

                emotions.
```

```
The greater the
                  • outer,
                  • assumed,
                   • sacrificial
                       unselfishness
                          becomes,
              the more the ensuing

    rage and

                   • hostility
                       will build up
                          hidden
                               destructive selfishness.
              In your
                   • emotions and
                  • hidden desires
                       you pay no heed at all
                          to others
                               whom you would gladly
                                  elbow out of
                                      all their rights.
              The other
                  cannot have reality
                       for you
              if you
                  give no reality
                       to your own self.
30
              The
                   • hidden,
                   • destructive
                       selfishness
                          comes from
                              fear
                                  and makes
                                      guilt [i.e., guilt for the hidden destructive selfishness]
                                         an obstruction
                                             that seems insurmountable,
                                                just because
                                                     the picture underneath [i.e., selfishness]
                                                   is so different from
                                                     the one on top [i.e., "unselfishness"].
```

```
A person who
    cannot be
         selfish
            in the
                • right and

    healthy

                   way
                        does not experience
                           his or her own self
                               in reality -
                                  it is all a game,
                                      how to
                                          • get by most easily
                                          • minimum of investment into life.
How can people
    who do not take
         • themselves,
         • their
            • growth and
            • happiness
                sufficiently seriously,
                   as real factors
                        to be reckoned with,
                           experience
                               other people
                                  as sufficiently real
                                      to have concern for their true being?
```

```
31
              When
                  • selfishness
                       is deemed to be
                          • bad
                and
                  • unselfishness
                          • good,
                              regardless of
                                 the
                                      how and
                                      • why,
                  • duality
              and
                  • error
                     are rampant.
              Therefore
                  conflict
                       between
                          • self-interest
                       and
                          • the interest of others
                              is inevitable.
                              It seems, indeed,
                                 a real
                                     conflict.
                              And on that level
                                 it is.
              But once
                  the duality
                       is transcended,
              such conflicts
                  no longer exist.
```

```
[Once the duality is transcended, such conflicts no longer exist,]
    For what is good for
         one's own real self
            must
                • absolutely and
                • inevitably
                   be good for
                        • the real self,
                        • the real ultimate
                           • happiness and
                           • growth,
                               of the other person.
In the realm
    of
         • inner reality –
         • universal truth,
            to be found in the depth -
                there can never be
                   a conflict between
                        the real interests of individuals.
Conflicting interests
    exist
         only on the
            superimposed levels of
                • falseness,
                • neurotic needs,
            and
                • destructively selfish and
                • exploitative
                   demands
                        that hinder the
                           • unfoldment
                               of truth
                          and
                           • the happiness
                               of all concerned.
```

```
32
               When the
                   duality
                       splits
                           selfishness
                               into
                                  • false divisions and
                                  • false values
                                       so that
                                          • untruthful,
                                          • pretended and
                                          • distorted
                                              attitudes
                                                 prevail,
              that which
                   destroys
                       true
                           • growth and

    happiness

                               is believed to be the
                                  right way.
                  It [i.e., That which destroys true growth and happiness in the world of duality]
                           • false humility,
                               thus
                                  • false pride,
                                       to the person who
                                          sacrifices.
                   It [i.e., That which destroys true growth and happiness in the world of duality]
                       makes an
                           exploiter
                               out of the person who
                                  accepts the sacrifice -
                                              always under the guise of
                                                 righteousness.
```

```
Can this [i.e., Can this consequence of living in the world of duality]
    be furthering
        • truth and
         • beauty,
         • bliss and
         • unfoldment
           for
                either
                    • the one who sacrifices
                or
                   • the one who blindly accepts it?
Even if it can be
    claimed,
         outwardly,
            that such an arrangement
                connotes
                   righteous action,
                        is this truly so?
What takes place
    in the psyches
        of people involved in such an interaction?
Those who
    accept
        the sacrifice
            must have a
                growing guilt.
Yet, they [i.e., Yet, those who accept the sacrifice of another in this dualistic world]
    cannot permit themselves
        to face it [i.e., to face the guilt for accepting the sacrifice of another],
           for this would make
                the structure
                   they
                        mutually
                           built
                               collapse –
                                       and they do not want to part
                                          with such a situation [i.e., do not want to
                                                      part with the structure they
                                                      have built together].
```

```
I already mentioned the
                   • rebellion,
                   • anger, and
                   • false sense of goodness,
                   • the spirit of being victimized,
                       that takes hold of
                           the psyche of
                               the self-sacrificing person.
33
               When the polarity
                  of
                       selfishness/unselfishness
                           is reconciled,
              the self
                   is accepted
                       as
                           • the center of existence -
                                       not by
                                          • evaluating yourself as more important than the other,
                                       but by
                                          • knowing your ego
                                              is responsible for
                                                 your life.
              It [i.e., Your ego]
                       • the carrier
                           in this life,
                       • the captain
                           who determines which way to go.
              Only then [i.e., Only then, when you know your ego is responsible for your life,]
                   is it possible to
                       • perceive
                     and
                        • experience
                           that
                               • you
                             and
                               • the other
                                   are
                                       one,
                                          within.
```

```
You will
    inevitably
         experience
            that
                 • self-interest
                    in the right way
              can never interfere with
                 • the interests of the other –
                                        where it really counts,
                                           on the deepest level.
However,
    even

    right and

         • healthy
            self-interest
                 almost always
                    interferes with the
                        egotistical self-interests
                           of the other person.
This is why
    following one's
         true self-interests
            • is often a great struggle
            • requires a lot of courage.
The world around you
    • fights it [i.e., fights against the idea of one following one's true self-interests]
    • deludes itself into claiming that
         true self-interest
            is nothing but
                 • egotism and
                 • destructive selfishness.
This is why
    you need to be strong enough
         to withstand
            the disapproval of the world
                 to follow
                    your own spiritual path.
```

```
Since one's
                  own spiritual path
                       cannot be anything but
                          blissful –
                                      and since the world is geared to believe that
                                         that which is
                                              blissful is

    wrong and

                                                 • selfish –
                               how

    strong and

                                  • independent
                                      you must become
                                         not to
                                              • be influenced and
                                              • feel falsely guilty
                                                for that which truly deserves
                                                     no guilt.
34
              You must overcome
                  a number of these

    deep obstructions and

                       • resistances
                          before you can come to
                              feel
                                  that
                                      the path of growth itself
                                         is the most blissful experience imaginable.
              All self-deceptions
                  must be eliminated
                       before this truth
                          can unfold itself to you.
35
              If you
                   • understand this principle, my friends, and
                   • proceed from here on,
                       asking yourself a number of questions,
              what will happen to you
                  will be a
                       wonderful new awakening.
```

```
Perhaps you will begin
    in this phase of your pathwork
        to ask,
                "What makes me most happy?"
If you go very deeply,
   you must see that
        what makes you
           really happy
               must be
                  • constructive,
                  • growth-bringing,
            and
               must make you
                  more connected
                       with
                          • cosmic life,
                  hence
                       with
                          • God.
You must see also -
               if you
                  • go deeply enough
                and
                   • do not stop in
                       • hesitation
                     and
                       • fear of your probing -
    that
        healthy self-interest
           cannot be against
               the true interests of others.
```

```
Indeed, it [i.e., Indeed, healthy self-interest]
    supports
         the true

    growth and

    unfoldment

                 of those whose
                    • egotistical,
                    • sick
                         interests
                            play into
                                your own
                                    • fearful,
                                   • dependent
                                        self,
                                           the part that wants to
                                                abdicate
                                                   self-responsibility.
Healthy self-interest
    can, however,
         be against the interest of
            • stagnation and
            • non-growth
                 of

    yourself and

                    • others.
Once you view this
    • frankly and
    • unsentimentally,
the courage to be
    yourself
         will arise in you
            from such truthful vision.
    All
         • falsity
and, with that,
    much

    suffering and

         • tension
            will fall off.
```

```
The kernel
                  that is so simple
                      will remain:
                              what produces
                                 • growth,
                                 • unfoldment of the soul,
                              must also produce
                                 • vital happiness,
                                 • vibrant stimulation and
                                 • pleasure.
              For such
                  is the goodness of God's world.
36
             It is the
                  distortion of God's world
                      that makes
                         commendable
                              what
                                 does
                                     not
                                        further
                                            the evolution of the individual.
37
              Be blessed,
                  all of you, my friends,
              be deeply
                  in the truth
                      of your
                         divine being.
             Let yourself
                  become
                      more
                         and more
                              what you truly are -
                                                   God.
```

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