

Pathwork on
Community Conflict as Teacher

This quote from Pathwork Lecture 54 *Questions and Answers*, gives a healthy framework for conflicts in community, pointing out their power to teach and for us to learn and grow through them.

04	<p>God's world is with this endeavor of yours. We are with you with all our protection and guidance. Yet, there will be times when we leave you alone, when we do not interfere, for otherwise you cannot learn. A child cannot learn to walk unless it has fallen and stumbled a few times. It is the same with spiritual and emotional growth. Let the frictions and irritations be a lesson to you. They are sometimes unavoidable and will be a great test for everyone concerned. Your attitude toward a disagreement or any sort of upheaval determines your progress. Are you going to be involved with your vanity, in self-righteousness? Must your little ego triumph? Or will you take whatever comes and learn from it to turn inward, to see what you can learn instead of how wrong the other person is, forgetting your own little hurt and the apparent injustice? That will be the yardstick, my friends. In that way you will honor the grace of this communication and preserve the teachings in their cleanliness. Do not ever forget these words. The only thing you can do, the only way to fulfill the bigger duty, beyond yourself, is to learn and to grow and to take everything that occurs in your life, the little and the big issues, and consider them from this point of view. If you learn to do that, none of you, individually, as well as the group as a whole, will ever fail.</p>
05	<p>Those of you who simply come to these lectures but do not participate in group work can observe the very same thing in your daily lives. You, too, can help build this wonderful temple and contribute in this work by learning from the frictions in your everyday life. Do that, my friends, and you will gain peace; you will see light at the end of the tunnel you may be in at any given moment.</p>