

Pathwork on
Freedom and Duty

Pathwork Lecture 47 *The Wall Within* clearly lays out the difference between Freedom in Duty and Compulsion to "Musts." Does freedom mean one can always do exactly as one pleases? The Lecture would say, "No," and yet we are free.

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| 30 | QUESTION: Where does a "must" end and a duty start? How do you distinguish between the two? |
| 31 | ANSWER: The "must" or the compulsion is always a result of untruthful, mixed, and confused motives. Duty is something entirely voluntary. If you fulfill a duty without compulsion, you do so because <u>you</u> decided it. It may be something that life seems to force upon you. But once you recognize that you cannot live life entirely as you would choose, that life brings situations and predicaments which one has to accept, whether one likes them or not, the healthy attitude is to say yes to life as it is. Then you voluntarily accept a duty. If you do not accept it emotionally and do the duty because you have no other choice, you are acting under a compulsion, against your will, and then it is a "must." I have taught you, for instance, that life's imperfections have to be accepted in that spirit. This includes also things that become your duty. He who constantly rebels against these imperfect conditions even though the rebellion may be quite unconscious, acts against his will, like a child who is forced to obey. The mature attitude is the free one. This real kind of freedom does not mean that one can always do exactly as one pleases, but that one accepts the necessary with a willing spirit, with an inward "yes." In other words, the borderline is in the very fine distinction between saying yes to an imposed or inevitable duty, or struggling against it and being forced to accept it against one's will. The difference lies in your attitude. |