

Purpose of the Intellect – A Means To Re-Connect With God

This quote from Pathwork Lecture 6 *The Human Role in the Spiritual and Material Universes* notes the high importance of the intellect in humanity's role in the Cosmos and Plan of Salvation. The intellect is a **means to an end** (a means to reach God, to re-connect with God), not an end in its own right. AND intellect is to be integrated and balanced with our human capacities of instinctual/emotional/intuitive energies. These instinctual/emotional/intuitive energies are needed in our positive evolution. At the same time, **when the intellect is not balanced with the spiritual**, results can be **negative and self-destructive**. This lecture sites previous existences of life on earth that were self-extinguished because of this imbalance.

24	<p>QUESTION: I would like to ask a question about the sensitivity of animals. Although man is supposed to be the highest developed creature on earth, in certain areas animals are; hunting dogs for instance have a sense that man totally lacks. ...</p>
25	<p>ANSWER: It is like this: What you call instinct is nothing but the sense that perceives what is not material.</p> <p>This sense is more developed in animals because their intellect is not yet as developed as man's.</p> <p>The intellect is very important for the human being, especially for his ascending development, because the executive will is part of it.</p> <p>However, if the intellect becomes the ultimate goal and <u>not</u> a means to an end, a <u>means to reach God</u>, then it is not channeled in the right direction, it becomes overemphasized, and the result is disharmony; then the healthy instincts wither away.</p> <p>This is very much the case these days. It would be necessary to establish a balance. When this does not happen, the consequences are severe.</p> <p>The same is true when the intellect is neglected, as has happened in the past and still happens with certain people.</p> <p>If the animal is in possession of senses that man often lacks, this is so because it needs them, as compensation.</p> <p>Humans could possess many more of these faculties if they created the right balance and placed their intellect into the service of a higher end.</p> <p>This, too, will happen one day.</p> <p>You can observe that in so-called primitive people the gift of instinctual awareness is much more developed. This should answer your question.</p> <p>However, the same question opens up further interesting points, which I would like to discuss in this connection.</p>

26 Through the distortion in the soul, which I can call the sickness of your times, it came about that **technical and scientific progress has been achieved on earth which does not keep step with the spiritual progress.**

God gave you your **intellect** so that **you can make your decisions with it:** "I go this or that way, I decide for this or for that."

The **choice** can be made for the **spiritual life** and for a **spiritual attitude.**

But it has to come from your **free will**, and a **free decision comes from the intellect.**

When such a decision is made in the right way, the faculties of instinctual and extra-sensory perceptions -- including mediumship -- will not become paralyzed but will develop together with the intellect.

This depends on the **direction into which you put your intellectual powers:** according to their **proper function and nature**, as **wisdom and lawfulness** require.

The **purpose** is the **harmonious development** of your **total spiritual and psychic organism**, and

if the use of the intellect deviates from this direction, the resulting disharmony will lead to a sense of **unhappiness.**

Be aware that the **intellect is an instrument of great importance for the attainment of the highest spiritual levels.** Do not minimize it.
Yet be also aware of how it should be used, as well as of its direction.

Is it an end in itself, or is it a means to an end?

27 In connection with the subject of the **instincts**, ask yourselves the following:

First,
do I keep a harmonious balance within myself **between instinct and intellect?**
Do I **give enough room within me to the activity of the instinct** -- or whatever you want to call it? **Such an inner power can be developed and cultivated** just as the **intellect** can. **Do I limit and constrict the instinctual feelings through the intellect**, which itself is ultimately a **limited power?**

Second,
do I use my intellect for the purpose for which it has been given to me?

Those who **use their intellectual powers in this total framework** will **steer their lives in the true direction.**
They will **completely fulfill their life tasks** and
enjoy a deep peace within themselves.

28	<p>QUESTION: I would like to ask a question of scientific interest. A scientist friend told me that humankind has already once before reached a very high state of development, perhaps higher than what we have today. I mean this in the material and not the spiritual sense.</p> <p>He says that atomic energy was definitely known at that time, hundreds of thousands of years ago, when the world was destroyed in a catastrophe. Is this true?</p>
29	<p>ANSWER: Yes, it is true.</p> <p>You are right in saying that humankind's level of <u>spiritual</u> development did not correspond to the <u>technical</u> progress and the destruction of the world, as you said, was precisely due to this factor.</p> <p>When there is too much discrepancy between the material and the spiritual development, then certain events will take place in order to avoid some greater danger.</p> <p>These events are a natural consequence of the situation and</p> <p>God allows them to take place; otherwise the spiritual danger would be much greater than any earthly catastrophe can ever be.</p> <p>Compared to the loss of spiritual life, the loss of earthly life means nothing.</p> <p>Cause and effect must work out according to law, and God's acts in human history never endanger the spiritual life of man.</p> <p>Sometimes it is impossible to avoid spiritual destruction except by material catastrophe. History often demonstrates this.</p> <p>Only when spiritual development, that is <u>re-connection with God,</u></p> <p>is commensurate with material progress, will history move in a living and positive cycle instead of the negative, which always extinguishes itself.</p>