

Pathwork on

## **Influence of Spirits on Humans; Negative Specialists, Prayer for Help and Guidance**

Do spirits from other realms influence us as human beings in our earthly realm? Can they help us if we ask for help? Will they help us if we do not ask for help? Are evil spirits to blame for our sins? This quote from Pathwork Lecture 15 *Influence Between the Spiritual World and the Material World*, addresses these questions and indicates that there are many entities around us that influence us for better or for worse – but it is our choice. It is interesting to compare these teachings with other teachings about positive and negative spiritual entities, for example from the bible or from Buddhist or Shamanic traditions.

05	<p>First I will discuss the influence of spirit on your earthly sphere. There are spiritual spheres throughout the universe: on the planets, within the different stellar systems, and even in the spaces in-between. Even within your earth-sphere you have all kinds of spiritual spheres, from the lowest to the highest. Since distance in the world of spirit is not measured by your geographical measurements, it is possible for many spheres to exist on the same geographical or material spot and to overlap. For example, one human person can live on earth, be in this room, and also be connected to a particular spiritual sphere, while another person in the same room can be connected to another sphere of quite a different level. I realize, my friends, this is extremely difficult for you to imagine, because distance for you is a question of space. Yet in absolute reality it is not so. A person is in contact with a sphere that corresponds to his or her general, overall spiritual development. Since no one on earth is harmoniously developed -- if you were, you would not have to live here -- you may at one time be in contact with a particular spiritual sphere, and when your mood changes, the currents coming out of your soul, your subconscious, and conscious mind, will connect you with quite a different sphere.</p>
06	<p>In my last lecture I explained to you about the higher self, lower self, and the mask self. Every human being has the first two, and perhaps ninety per cent of humanity also has to some degree the third, the mask self. For those of you here for the first time, it might be advantageous to read my last lecture, so that this lecture can be more fully understood. Wherever the higher self has been restored to its original state by shedding the surrounding layers constituting the lower self, it reaches out and automatically connects with the highest and most radiant spheres, even though you still live on earth, and even though, measured by distance, these very radiant spheres are hundreds of thousands of miles away. And wherever the lower self is still stronger and does not permit the higher self to shine through, connection is made with the forces of darkness, according to each person's attitude and development. In other words, one person's lower self may be lower than another's. Since each sphere is richly populated by spirits fitting into that particular sphere, you are all constantly in touch with spirits of varying spiritual development, as well as with the forces and currents generating</p>

	from our particular sphere.
07	<p>Some people make evil spirits responsible when their lower self takes over, meaning that they are not to blame. This is not so. Certainly, evil spirits can and do influence you, but only if and when you permit it by your laxity in pursuing your spiritual development and through your inclination to take the line of least resistance. You think that merely because your faults are not as bad as those of certain people of very low development -- a criminal, for example -- they do not matter so much. Even if your faults are only minor ones, not outright crimes or recognized sins, you are responsible. The higher your development, the more it is your responsibility and duty to perfect yourself. The more you are free of very wicked or evil trends, the higher your development evidently is. Therefore you possess more enlightenment and more strength and thus more can be expected of you. A so-called minor fault may count just as heavily for you as a crime would for a person of little or no spiritual enlightenment. Therefore, do not compare your faults and deviations from spiritual law with another's. Your comparison may be all wrong, because you cannot possibly judge where you stand compared to others. I am saying this because people often make allowances for themselves either by saying or thinking, "I am not the only one who does that; other people are doing worse," or by putting the blame on evil spirits whose influence on them, they like to believe, is merely coincidental. By the same token, if higher entities from the world of God can guide, help, and influence you, it can be so only because your inner attitude has called them forth.</p>
08	<p>Wherever a human being is, a number of spirit beings of various stages of development are also close by. In every sphere there are specialists of all kinds. I have said this before and repeat it here because its significance is not yet fully understood. The world of spirit, in all its gradations, is much more specialized than your earthly sphere. This applies to the divine order and to the world of darkness as well as all the variations in-between. Each one of you attracts those specialists whose particular qualities, good or bad, you possess. For like attracts like inevitably, magnetically. When a human being grows up, he or she is surrounded by guardian spirits who belong to the order and organization of divine worlds, and they can come close to their protégé only if he or she asks for divine truth and will, and tries to strive higher. Otherwise they have to stand back and watch from a distance. They will interfere only to protect according to past merits, following exact spiritual laws about which they are very careful and which they do not ever break, because these laws are perfection, love, wisdom and justice. This very same person is also surrounded by a number of other spirits not incorporated into the divine order. Some may belong to the world of darkness. If this person is not a criminal or a really sinful soul, very evil spirits will keep away, for they could not accomplish their specialty with such a person.</p>
09	<p>However, even the specialists of the so-called minor or everyday human faults belong to the world of darkness. They also operate according to their own laws, and accomplish just as much for their purposes as, let us say, a spirit of</p>

	<p>murder who influences a human being. If your fault is selfishness, there will be a selfishness specialist attached to you. If your fault is that you are inclined to furious outbursts, you will have a specialist around you of a type who will wait for you to permit it to take over, influence you and thus live through you. This gives it a great deal of satisfaction, not only because it thus fulfills its task, but also because it can indulge in its particular weakness. On the other hand, you may be completely void of envy, so you do not have a specialist of envy attached to you. But another person, not inferior to you in his or her overall development, may have this envy specialist around because of this fault.</p>
10	<p>So you must bear in mind that it is your own faults that pull the particular specialists close to you in the first place, and that they constantly wait for an opportunity to live through you. Thus you collude with them, and can get rid of them only through your personal endeavor to overcome your faults. But before you can do this, you first have to recognize all your faults, of which you are often unaware simply because you do not want to be burdened with such unflattering knowledge. Few people really want to know their faults. Most people admit that they have some faults, but to admit faults in a superficial way and to become fully aware of them are two different things.</p>
11	<p>So, for your own protection, each one of you should face himself or herself in utter honesty. You can be sure that whatever your particular faults are, you will carry with you and around you the corresponding spirit specialists who are waiting for an opportunity to inspire you to give in to your particular faults. And since it does not take a lot of pressure to succumb, and it is the easy and comfortable way, very often you follow these inspirations. The stronger the fault is within you and the less aware you are of its full significance, the closer this specialist will be to you! Thus it is at the same time both correct and incorrect for people who know about the existence of the beyond and the spirit-creatures to say that an evil spirit influenced them. When they say this, and mean by it that they are taking full responsibility for their own input, it is correct; but when they say it because they want to absolve themselves of personal responsibility and guilt, it is incorrect.</p>
12	<p>Between these low creatures and the higher entities of the world of God there are many spirits who are very similar to yourselves in their attitudes. They may be deceased people who mean well and are not particularly bad, but who do not yet belong to the divine order and are thus blind in many respects. They often seek to influence human beings because it helps them in some way, or simply because they have nothing better to do. They can learn from you if you take the spiritual path of self-development. However, if you are not stronger than they are, they will influence you, sometimes not harmfully, but, even though they may mean well, they do not inspire you to the best of your spiritual advantage because they are blind. Sometimes their guidance may be to your material advantage, which may or may not interfere with your spiritual progress, and sometimes their influence may be harmless, or appear harmless, but is ultimately</p>

	<p>to your disadvantage. When and to what degree this can happen is again no coincidence: their influence is inevitably called forth by your own inner attitudes.</p>
13	<p>If you meditate about this, about yourself, your life and your desires, you can find out what spirits are around you. Those of you who walk on the path of perfection, which is the only real protection you have, will not be bothered or influenced by spirits who do not fulfill the will of God in all respects. There are other means of protection, but they have only a temporary effect. If you are in disharmony -- for instance when you feel a quarrel brewing with your fellow-creatures -- and have the presence of mind to bring yourself to pray, to reach out for God within you, or to ask for spiritual guidance, this will surely help, and I recommend it strongly. But it will help only in this particular instance, because you do not always have such presence of mind. Sometimes you will be tired and will let yourself go, and then you become prey to these influences which, as we said, can have an effect on you only because of what is already within you. Therefore, the only definite and permanent cure and protection for you is to tear out the bad growths at their roots. This happens on the path of perfection and self-development, the path of happiness. If you are willing to take this path, you will be guided and helped. But first this will and decision must be clearly formulated within you; then it will be recognized. At that point your divine guidance can automatically and immediately get close to you and can, among other things, guide you to the proper human help, which you also need in order to take this path. You will be guided to the place and the person best suited to your temperament and character.</p>
14	<p>This is how the different spiritual spheres with their respective creatures influence humans. Human beings are not helpless prey to these influences, but determine them. And by rejecting any influence that does not come from the divine world, a person not only takes hold of his or her own life but also weakens the forces of darkness, for the less they have to work with in the material world, the more power they must eventually lose.</p>