

Pathwork Lecture 23: Questions and Answers

1996 Edition, Original Given February 14, 1958

This Pathwork lecture is rendered in an **expanded poetic format**, what I call a **Devotional Version** of the lecture. In this sense it is **my interpretation** of the **intent** of the lecture. I may have interpreted portions differently from you, and when this is the case, I ask you to ponder the words for **your own interpretation**.

I did this Devotional Version so I can take the words into my heart, phrase by phrase, much as I would in reading poetry -- **devotionally**. *I invite you to slowly read and ponder this rendition of the text – with an open heart to experience the Pathwork Guide’s Presence, Wisdom and Love emerging from among the words. May the Pathwork Guide’s Wisdom come to live you.*

For clarity: The **original text** is in **bold, italicized, and mostly underlined**. [My interpretations and intended clarifications are in brackets, italicized, sometimes underlined, but never bolded.]

To learn more of my Devotional Version and to access the lectures I have rendered in this form, go to <http://www.garyvollbracht.com/quotes/pathwork-lectures-expanded-versions/>

Blessings on your journey, Gary

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03	<p><u>Greetings</u> <u>in the Name of</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>God and</u>• <u>Jesus Christ.</u> <p><u>I bring blessings</u> <u>to all of you,</u> <u>my friends.</u></p>
04	<p><i>As I have promised,</i> <i>we will have tonight a</i> <i>question and answer session.</i></p> <p><i>From now on</i> <i>I will be ready to answer also</i> <i>personal questions in these general sessions, my friends,</i> <i>but only those of you</i> <i>who do not come for private sessions</i> <i>should take this opportunity.</i></p>

by Eva Broch Pierrakos

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This is not an imposition for the other listeners.

Quite the contrary.

*If you are ready to ask
anything personal –
of course only concerning your
• spiritual development or
• psychological difficulties –
this will help others
much more than you can imagine.*

*And rather than taking time away from them
by asking such questions,
you will offer a gift to the others,
while you benefit at the same time.*

So, whoever is ready will be welcome.

*And now, my friends,
I am ready for your questions.*

05

***QUESTION:**
I understand how
the fallen spirits,
through their longings,
created for themselves
the earth.*

*But I do not understand
why it was necessary
to
• move to a physical planet and
• have such a very
• physical and
• material
life
in order to achieve this.*

06

ANSWER:

***In the first place,
"physical"
is merely an indication of
the degree of density.***

***Human beings
often make the mistake in thinking
that, for instance,
• the world of darkness is
not physical or
that
• the spiritual matter there
is of radiant matter.***

***In fact,
the substance there [i.e., the substance in the world of darkness]
is much denser
than
your physical substance [on earth].***

***It [i.e., the substance in the world of darkness]
is so dense
that it too
becomes
• invisible and
• untouchable
for your degree of density [on earth].***

***The whole scale of
matter existing in the universe
is in
various degrees
• dense
or
• subtle.***

***The lowest [scale of matter existing in the universe]
is of the
• thickest or
• heaviest or
• densest
degree.***

The higher
the development,
• the more radiant or
• the finer
the degree [of the substance in the universe]
becomes.

While
the more highly developed beings
can
• see and
• feel
not only
their own
substance,
according to their development,
but can also
• see and
• touch
the substance of
lower levels,
the lower spirits
cannot do so.

They [i.e., the lower spirits]
are only receptive to
the substance
that corresponds to
their own
level of development.

The same applies to
• the human being
or to
• the physical substance.

The lower
the development,
the blinder
the being must be.

*The earth sphere
is just a grade in-between.*

*It is a condition
of the particular development of
the earth sphere
that humans
generally
cannot see any other substance
than their very own [substance].*

*The same principle applies
to all spheres
lower than the earth sphere,
but does not apply
to higher spiritual spheres [i.e. this principle that spirits cannot see any
other substance other than their own does not apply to
spiritual spheres higher than the earth sphere].*

07

*One of the
particular purposes
of this world of matter
is that
on the earth
you
are open for influences
of the
• higher,
as well as of the
• lower
spheres, and
you
• stand, so to speak,
in the middle and
• can choose [which spheres – lower or higher – you
allow to influence you].*

*This [capacity to choose between being influenced by lower or higher spheres]
gives you
a much greater chance
for faster development.*

*At the same time,
[on earth] you live
surrounded by
people of different levels of development,
which creates
friction [between you and other people].*

*It is much easier
to live with people
of the same spiritual spheres,
while
the difference of development
among different people
creates*

- *misunderstandings,*
- *blindness,*
- and so on.*

*This very difficulty [of living among people of differing development]
can be the key
to faster development,
because
you can certainly
overcome your weaknesses faster
if they are challenged.*

*And this [i.e. And being challenged]
they [i.e., your weaknesses]
are [challenged],
by the*

- *frictions and*
- *conflicts*
- arising from*
the differences in
 - *outlook and*
 - *development.*

So conditions of this earth sphere,
with its degree of

- density and
- circumstances

arising from it,
are certainly
more difficult [than conditions that are more uniform on other spheres].

But therein
lies the possibility
of infinitely faster development.

Is that clear?

08

QUESTION:
Yes, thank you,
but now I have two questions.

One is: Do I understand right that
because of the special degree of density
of the world of darkness
we cannot

- see it and

we cannot

- touch it?

ANSWER:
That is right.

It [i.e., the world of darkness]
is
of an

- entirely different caliber,

of a

- very different substance.

It is

- not finer than yours,

but

- thicker.

It is so thick
that you would
not call it physical anymore.

09

QUESTION:

The other question is:

*I believe you said in a lecture once that
the spirits
who are in darkness
actually
• wince and
• shrink away and
• feel physical pain
when they come into contact with
the light of
higher spirits.*

*You said that
the lower spirits
don't see the higher.*

ANSWER:

It is this way:

*As a rule, they [i.e., the lower spirits]
cannot see it [i.e., cannot see the light of the higher spirits].*

*As a manifestation
from the higher worlds,
at exceptional occasions,
the higher spirits
can manifest,
either in
• the form of light
or in
• their actual form.*

*If these higher spirits
do not take certain measures
to manifest,
the lower spirits
will not see them ordinarily.*

But if such measures
have been taken [by the higher spirits],
the lower beings
will

- see,
- feel, or
- perceive

in some way
the higher beings.

The same applies to your world.

You [on earth] may see

- a materialization or
- other sights,

if the spirit world

- fulfills the requirements and
- wishes to give such a sign.

But ordinarily
you [on earth]
will not see it [i.e., will not see the light of a higher being].

So if this light [of a higher being]
then manifests to
those spirits in darkness,
it creates a

- pain or
- discomfort of some kind,

again
according to their

- development, or
- lack of it.

Is that clear? {Yes, thank you.}

10	<p>QUESTION: <i>You said last time that <u>due to the longing of the fallen spirits,</u> <u>gradually</u> <u>this earth sphere</u> <u>came into existence.</u></i></p> <p><i><u>I always thought</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>God</u> <u>created the world –</u>• <u>not the lower spirits.</u>
11	<p>ANSWER: <i><u>In the first place,</u> <u>I purposely said that</u> <u>this earth</u> <u>came into existence</u> <u>not only due to the longing of</u> <u>• the fallen spirits,</u> <u>but also due to the longing of</u> <u>• the higher spirits</u> <u>• who have remained faithful to God and</u> <u>• whose longing</u> <u>was directed to</u> <u>the salvation</u> <u>of their fallen brothers and sisters.</u></i></p> <p><i><u>Their [i.e., the higher spirits'] longing</u> <u>also helped</u> <u>to create this world.</u></i></p> <p><i><u>But this will still not answer your question quite satisfactorily.</u></i></p> <p><i><u>Whether</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>God</u> <u>created this world</u> <p><i><u>or</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>the longing of the spirits –</u> <u>• the fallen ones,</u> <u>as well as</u> <u>• the pure ones –</u> <p><i><u>is one and the same thing, my dear.</u></i></p>

God creates often
through
• His children,
through
• His spirits,
through
• His laws.

The spirits
cannot create
anything,
unless
they are given
the power
I was speaking of lately,
the power
that can be used
• for good
or
• for evil.

This
• creative power,
this
• life force,
• can be directed into
any channel and
• can create therefore
worlds of
• beauty and
• harmony
or
worlds of
• ugliness and
• pain.

You
create worlds
• all the time,
• every day and
• every hour,
• as you know and
• as I have repeatedly said.

*You create
spiritual worlds.*

*You do that [i.e., you create spiritual worlds]
automatically,
because
the law works in this way.*

*Therefore,
God creates
through*

- His power
which He has given
to His children
to use to a wide extent and*

through

- His law
that makes this [creation through His children]
possible.*

12

This

- material
world*
 - was, and*
 - still is being
created*

in the same way as

- many other spiritual
worlds.*

The coming into existence
of this earth
was the expression
of
• the attitude,
of
• the longing,
of
• everything that
• was and
• is
part of the personalities involved,
• the higher as [well as]
• the lower
ones [i.e., the higher as well as the lower parts
of the personalities involved].

The spiritual worlds
are nothing else but
the expression of
their [i.e., the expression of the involved personalities']
• attitudes,
their
• mentality,
their
• longing,
their
• goals,
their
• feelings,
their
• deeds and
• thoughts.

Is that clear?

13

QUESTION:
*Is it, so to speak,
a co-creation?*

ANSWER:
*No, I would not say
a co-creation.*

You might call it that,
but it is not entirely correct,
it [the idea of "co-creation"]
will give a false idea.

Co-creation
would mean that
God actually went ahead and
created Himself
this world,
while the other spirits [merely]

- helped [God] and [thereby]
- participated

in the creation.

It is not that way.

God created

- His laws of the universe.

He created

- His children.

He created

- various
 - powers and
 - strengths and
 - forces

and He distributed them
in such a way
that
all living spirits
can use this power
in free choice.

Part of the
expression
of this power [through the free choice of all living spirits involved]
are the various

- worlds or
- spheres

coming into existence.

14

QUESTION:

Yes, I understand that.

But there is something else.

You said that

at that time [i.e., the time when the earth was created]

they [i.e., the created spirits]

were not so far developed

that they would produce

only

spheres of light.

When I read that, I thought,

is anybody

now [i.e., today, after the time of the initial creation of the earth,]

able to produce

only

spheres of light?

15

ANSWER:

Well, there are people

now

on this earth

who belonged once

to the

• light and

• partly, let us say, medium

spheres,

but not

• dark

spheres

anymore.

At that time [i.e., at the time when the earth was initially created],

this ability to produce

only

spheres of light

did not exist,

unless you take

the pure

incarnated spirits.

And that was the exact reason
why
pure spirits
were incarnated [on earth] at intervals,
so that
a communication
with the spirit world of God
could be established,
for which
it is necessary
that the beings in question [i.e., that the beings able to
communicate with the world of God]
do not produce spheres of

- ugliness and
- darkness

anymore,
but have,
at least to some degree,
spheres of

- light and
- harmony

of their own.

At that time [i.e., at that time when the earth was first created],
there were very few
of the fallen spirits
who had
any
light spheres.

The best they could do
was to have –
again I use this word –
medium spheres.

Of course,
all this is so relative.

{Yes, thank you.}

16	<p>QUESTION: <u>How come that</u> <u>for the satanic power</u> <u>the name</u> <u>Lucifer,</u> <u>which means</u> <u>light-bringer,</u> <u>was given?</u></p> <p><u>Where is its scriptural origin?</u></p>
17	<p>ANSWER: <u>The name Lucifer</u> <u>was not given to this spirit</u> <u>after</u> <u>he became</u> <u>what you call Satan.</u></p> <p><u>That [i.e., the name Lucifer]</u> <u>was his name</u> <u>when he was created</u> <u>as a spirit of light.</u></p> <p><u>And as you know,</u> <u>• Lucifer</u> <u>came after</u> <u>• Christ.</u></p> <p><u>He [i.e., Lucifer]</u> <u>was a</u> <u>• marvelous and</u> <u>• beautiful</u> <u>spirit –</u> <u>the bringer of light.</u></p> <p><u>That name [i.e., Lucifer]</u> <u>originates from that time [i.e., the time before the Fall</u> <u>of the Angels].</u></p>

*Where you can find it in the Scriptures
is a question
I am not entitled to answer,
because, as you know,
a spirit does not have the right
to answer questions
you could find out by your own endeavors.*

But let me say this to you:

*Lucifer
was not mentioned particularly by name
in*
• the Scriptures or
in
• some of the so-called Gnostic literature
*for the same reason that
a number of religions
do not refer to*
• the Fall and
• Creation and
• the Plan of Salvation
as the Christian religion does.

I have explained this already.

*If you wish,
I can answer it again,
tonight or at another time.*

*And perhaps you will then
understand it better.*

*But there are also
a great number of seers
who have*
• brought this knowledge and
• put it into
• books and
• literature.

*In other words,
people who are open
• for this type of knowledge,
• for this explanation
• of the Creation and
• of the spiritual facts,
are able to receive this enlightenment.*

*And others,
whose different personalities
follow trends of another direction,
may receive
• great and
• wonderful
enlightenment
• in other ways,
• concerning different facets of spiritual truth.*

18

***QUESTION:**
Are the
• god
and
• goddess
• Shiva
and
• Kali
in any way
connected with Lucifer?*

***ANSWER:**
That is
a different variation.
They certainly
represent
evil.
They may
not represent
Lucifer himself,
but
the evil forces.

So there is a part of that.*

19

QUESTION:

Has
Lucifer
been incarnated [on earth]
as
• Christ
was [incarnated on earth]?

ANSWER:

No, my friends,
how could he?

Before you can be incarnated [on earth],
you have to have reached
a certain development.

There are
many, many, many
other spirits,
• who have
not fallen
as deeply as Lucifer,
• who are
not ready for incarnation either.

And much time will have to elapse
before they can incarnate.

The worst criminals on this earth
must have already
some sense for good,
somewhere inside them.

For otherwise
they could not be human.

They would not
be ready for
incarnation.

Lucifer
must be the very last to incarnate,
in theory.

In practice, of course,
since he would be the last,
his development

- will proceed in a different way as the others and
- will not go through this form of human incarnation.

If he would be
the only man living on earth,
there would be no point to it.

And he must, perforce,
be the last.

The first
will be the last!

And he was
the first to fall,
so he must be
the last to come back.

And he will be
the last to come back,
because
he is farthest away from God
in his attitude.

So if it were logical
for him to be incarnated at all,
he would be the last one.

But since there would be
no purpose
for such an incarnation,
his development
will proceed differently.

20

QUESTION:

Is it true that

during World War II

there was

- a danger point [i.e., danger of Luciferic forces defeating Christ's forces]

also

in the battle of the heavens,

parallel to

- the height of power of Hitler [i.e., the danger point of Hitler taking over the world]

before the Russian debacle?

ANSWER:

Oh, no my friends!

Oh no!

You see,

if there was still a danger point on that score,

the salvation through Christ

would make no sense.

- Since that war

between

- Christ

and

- Lucifer, and

- since

the salvation [i.e., since Christ's completion of His role in the Plan of Salvation]

everything

- is established and

- runs according to plan.

The free will

of the individual

plays a role in it;

there is always enough leeway left

for that [i.e., enough leeway for the individual's free will],

in both directions [i.e., in either good or evil directions].

Nevertheless,
• up to a certain point of development,
• until they have found
a certain spiritual light
in an overall development,
collectively,
people will have wars
on your earth.

In principle,
from a spiritual point of view,
the last wars
were no worse than
the wars you had hundreds and thousands of years ago,
because
it is
not a question of
• how many people are killed.

The question is
• the motive.

And the motives
have certainly purified
in the latest wars,
not only
the very last.

21

With that
I do
not mean to say that
• one side
is always entirely right and
• the other
is entirely wrong.

There is always
some wrong
on both sides,
certainly.

In recent times,
when people make war,
they may be
mistaken in their ideologies,
but at least
there is always
some ideology
behind it,
even if
there are some
ruthless people
who are completely selfish.

The majority of the people
follow

- some cause,
- some idea,

while in former times
they had to go to war
like sheep.

Their rulers
forced them
and they had
absolutely no idea why.

It was just the thing to do.

Then

- the more
you killed,
- the greater
a hero you were.

The rulers
simply had their own advantages
as their goals –

- to get more land,
- to get more power.

Though people
seem to be that way now too,
even the most ruthless ones [i.e., the most ruthless rulers]
have deep convictions about
their own

- ideas and
- ideals,

wrong as they may be in themselves.

If they [i.e., If rulers] were
completely ruthless,
today
they

- could not get away with this anymore and
- could never induce
whole nations
to kill each other
for their selfish interests.

Deep down they [i.e., the rulers]

- know and
- sense
this.

There are some people
who claim that
the old way
is still the case today,
but they are
entirely mistaken.

22

From the spiritual point of view,
the question is
not

- how bloody a war is,
- how effective your weapons are.

From our angle,
what matters
is the motive.

Even if you are mistaken,
if your motive
has some vestiges of decency,
it is far better than
what happened in former times.

It is true that
• a sincere
• but mistaken
motive to go to war
will not save you
from the consequences,
because
ignorance
does not alter
the law of
• cause
and
• effect.

But what is absolutely true
is that
• the sincere,
• though false
motive
is not evaluated in the same way
as the
purely
• selfish and
• wicked
one –
and therefore
this
must also
eventually
have an effect.

This alone
should be an answer
to people who claim there is
no advance in spiritual development.

For there is!

And this [progress in motives for war] is one of the many proofs.

23

But people will reach
eventually –
and it is to be hoped that this will happen
in the not too faraway future –
an understanding
that war
can never be a solution.

There
• was
and
• is
• spiritual progress,
but not measured by
• technical progress.

The mere fact
that
• technical and
• material
progress
has been going on so fast
in comparison to
• spiritual
progress
will force people
to come to
• this conclusion and
• this enlightenment.

As long as
people
• do not fight their lower selves
and thus
• become enslaved
• to them [i.e., enslaved to their lower selves] and
• to the powers of darkness,
the outer expression
of this state will be,
among other things,
war.

	<p><u>But</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>when</u> <u>this fight in</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>individual and</u>• <u>personal</u> <p><u>development</u> <u>will have reached a certain stage,</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>when</u> <u>people have reached</u> <u>a step nearer to God</u> <u>in a certain definite way,</u> <p><u>wars</u> <u>will not be possible anymore.</u></p>
24	<p><u>If only</u> <u>a certain percentage of</u> <u>human beings –</u> <u>by no means</u> <u>even half of the world population,</u> <u>but only a small part,</u> <u>one tenth,</u> <u>and perhaps not even that –</u> <u>would really follow</u> <u>the spiritual</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>development and</u>• <u>purification</u><u>I advocate,</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>overcoming</u> <u>their own lower trends,</u>• <u>recognizing in self-honesty</u> <u>their own lower nature,</u><u>and thus</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>finishing the war</u> <u>that is raging</u> <u>in almost every human soul,</u><u>the outpouring of energy forms</u> <u>in the form of warfare</u> <u>will cease to exist.</u></p>

25

There is hardly a person,
even in this room,
in whom

- a war
is not going on inside,
- a war
 - that is not recognized as yet,
 - where
 - one trend of the subconscious
wants to go this way, and
 - the other [trend of the subconscious]
that way.

And your consciousness
does not know it.

This
creates wars on this earth –
your unrecognized

- hatred,

your unrecognized

- selfishness,

your unrecognized

- lack of love,

and so on.

Once you control this –
it does not mean
you have to be
completely purified,
but

- you control it,
- you are aware of it –
even if
only less than one-tenth
of the entire human population
will reach that stage,

I assure you,
war
will be impossible.

But to say that this war
was created
because of the war of the spirits
cannot possibly be right.

26

QUESTION:

Are we to understand

- **that it does not matter so much**
how many people are killed and
- **that this [i.e., that many people being killed] is not regrettable?**

ANSWER:

My dear,

this depends entirely on

- **the way**
you look at it,
- **from what point of view [you look at it].**

As far as you human beings are concerned,

you should be

very responsible,

not only

- **about the life of your fellow-creatures,**

but also

- **their well-being.**

It is

your

personal responsibility.

So certainly,

you should

never

adopt the point of view

that

what happens to others

does not matter.

This distortion

may serve people's

lowest instincts.

It is your

sacred duty,

just as it [just as your sacred duty] is

- **to do your best**
- **for your own development,**
- **for your own life,**

also

- **to be concerned with**
the life of every other person.

***In some way
you are bound to***
• ***everyone else,***
even
• ***your worst enemy.***

***That person [i.e., your worst enemy]
is you
and
you
are that person [i.e., you are your worst enemy].***

***But
from the spiritual point of view,
the question
how many people were killed in a war
is not
the important matter.***

***There [i.e., from the spiritual point of view],
the important matter is***
• ***what the motive is,***
• ***how the spiritual attitudes
of everyone involved
look to us.***

***Also,
you must not forget
that the clockwork of the laws
is so perfect
that nothing unjust
can come
to any single individual.***

***But that does
not mean
that you are free***
• ***to commit sins,***
• ***to be careless about
the lives of others
by leaning heavily on
the fact
that no injustice can happen
to anyone anyway.***

You cannot
do injustice
to another being,

but you can
harm yourself
by violating
the laws of love.

27

QUESTION:
*Are some of the occult teachings true
that there is an
Antichrist
incarnated now?*

ANSWER:

Oh no,
oh no!

Definitely not,
if by this is meant
one particular Antichrist.

Of course,
all spirits

- who come from
the world of darkness and
- who are still
entrapped in that darkness,

are all
Antichrists.

Everyone
who does not see
the light of

- God and
- the light of
• Christ and
- the light of
• goodness,
- love and
- truth

is an Antichrist.

In that sense,
yes [the Antichrist is incarnated now].

They [i.e., all those who do not see the light of God, of Christ, of goodness]
are still that [i.e., are still the Antichrist],
but they will not always be.

They may be
instruments,

- **consciously or**
- **unconsciously,**

of the world of darkness.

But there is no

- **particular,**
- **single,**

incarnation
representing the Antichrist.

28

QUESTION:
So the idea that existed for a time
that Hitler
was the Antichrist
is wrong.

ANSWER:
It is
entirely wrong.

Hitler
came from
the world of darkness.

That is quite true.

But,
particularly in the case of Hitler,
the chances were
that he could have done well in this life.

Before he was incarnated,
he was in a certain school
in the spirit world.

He had,
through previous incarnations,
deserved certain merits
and
even though he was still
very much connected with
the world of darkness,
these merits warranted
that he be given
certain instructions.

Before he came to earth,
he was told that he would,
by a conglomeration of many circumstances
that all play into the divine laws,
be given great power
and it would be
according to his free will
how he would use this power.

He even had
a great deal of
psychic power.

Up to a certain point,
the chances were there
that he might have used these powers
in a good way.

That may surprise you.

I do not mean by that
that he could have become

- a savior,
- a saint, or
- anything like that.

Of course not.

	<p><u>He was</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>much too bound</u> <u>to the world of darkness for that</u> [i.e., <u>for becoming a savior or saint</u>],• <u>not enough developed by far.</u> <p><u>But</u> <u>he could have gained some progress</u> <u>in his spiritual development.</u></p> <p><u>He could have overcome</u> <u>some of the darkness</u> <u>that was still in his soul.</u></p> <p><u>And he could have done</u> <u>some good.</u></p>
29	<p><u>Yet,</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>he was weak and</u>• <u>he did not take this chance</u> [for spiritual development]. <p><u>He used his powers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>first only</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>a little,</u>• <u>unwittingly,</u>• <u>and then</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>more and more</u> <u>for the powers of darkness.</u> <p><u>But</u> <u>that</u> [i.e., <u>but using his powers more and more for the powers of darkness</u>] <u>was not determined</u> <u>from the beginning.</u></p> <p><u>There was a certain time in his life,</u> <u>in his youth –</u> <u>and we can see this picture now –</u> <u>when he was almost at the point</u> <u>of going over the borderline</u> [where he could use his powers for the world of God, for his development, and for good].</p> <p><u>He just did not quite make it.</u></p>

	<p><i><u>And once entangled</u></i> <i><u>only a little</u></i> <i><u>with the dark powers,</u></i> <i><u>he could never muster the strength anymore</u></i> <i><u>to disentangle himself from them.</u></i></p> <p><i><u>So he was not a Lucifer by any means.</u></i></p> <p><i><u>He could not have lived on earth</u></i> <i><u>in the first place,</u></i> <i><u>if he were anything like it.</u></i></p> <p><i><u>And particularly in his case,</u></i> <i><u>more than in many of the others that surrounded him,</u></i> <i><u>who were much darker spirits,</u></i> <i><u>the very strong inclination existed –</u></i> <i><u>comparatively speaking –</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i><u>• to strive upward,</u></i><i><u>• to reach into the world of God.</u></i> <p><i><u>If you were to study his life thoroughly,</u></i> <i><u>you would find</u></i> <i><u>many indications</u></i> <i><u>that would confirm my words.</u></i></p>
30	<p>QUESTION: <i><u>In other words,</u></i> <i><u>he was a tragic figure?</u></i></p> <p>ANSWER: <i><u>Yes,</u></i> <i><u>much more tragic than some others.</u></i></p>
31	<p>QUESTION: <i><u>And with regard to</u></i> <i><u>Mussolini?</u></i></p> <p>ANSWER: <i><u>Mussolini</u></i> <i><u>was not quite the same case.</u></i></p>

His case was different
insofar that
he did not come from
such a dark sphere as Hitler.

But on the other hand,
he did not have as much of
the possibility for light
as Hitler had.

His personality
was more "even,"
if I might use this expression.

There are people –
and you may encounter them every day,
and perhaps some of you
fall into the same category –
who have
a very strong inclination
toward the good,
but the discrepancy
between
good
and
evil
in them
is much more extreme
than in others.

They are
• much better
than some other people,
but also, at the same time,
• much worse.

Correspondingly,
one type of person
will have some very dark spheres
as their homes,
but several spheres of the same type,
with not too much difference among them,
belong into
a world of medium gray.

Roughly speaking,
this is the difference
between
• Hitler
and
• Mussolini.

32

QUESTION:
May I ask in this connection
about Nostradamus
who has prophesied
some of these events?

Isn't that impossible to do?

Over 400 to 500 years [in the future]?

ANSWER:
No.

It is not impossible,
because any great seer –
and they are never entirely right,
you will understand why –
can at times
be allowed
to see the plan
that exists in the spirit world.

Or, perhaps,
due to some particular
• talent and
• personal vibration,
one can be tuned in,
so to speak,
to see
a part of such a plan.

God makes the plan
• according to
the given circumstances,
• always within the framework
of the law.

But there are
several
plans,
meeting
all eventualities
resulting from free will.

Either
one will come true
or
another,
or
still another,
varying only slightly
in the time element
in certain conditions.

But the plans must be
• made and
• prepared
for all possible decisions,
resulting from free will.

This is an important part
of the Plan of Salvation.

	<p><u>We know that</u> <u>a certain number of possibilities</u> <u>are open.</u></p> <p><u>We give leeway for</u> <u>all these possibilities when the time comes,</u> <u>to work from our end.</u></p> <p><u>Now it sometimes happens</u> <u>that a seer</u> <u>sees just one such plan.</u></p> <p><u>If, later,</u> <u>the free will</u> <u>of the individuals involved</u> <u>will have led up to</u> <u>the fulfillment of this plan,</u> <u>the seer was right.</u></p> <p><u>Otherwise,</u> <u>this may account for his mistakes,</u> <u>although other circumstances</u> <u>may also play a role in that [i.e., in the seer's mistakes],</u> <u>such as</u> <u>false interpretation of what was seen.</u></p>
33	<p>QUESTION: <u>So the prediction of Nostradamus</u> <u>for the end of this century</u> <u>does not have to come true?</u></p> <p>ANSWER: <u>Not necessarily.</u></p>
34	<p>QUESTION: <u>That's why I was asking,</u> <u>whether this [prediction] can be avoided.</u></p> <p>ANSWER: <u>Certainly.</u></p>

He [i.e., Nostradamus]
saw one plan,
and if the free will of the people
would work to avoid this particular direction,
then this would be
a necessary means
to a good end.

But if free will
works in any number of
other directions,
the plan is modified accordingly,
fitting the circumstances exactly.

All the alternatives
are prepared beforehand.

Nostradamus just saw
one alternative and
not the many other possibilities
according to free will.

35

QUESTION:
So seers,
such as Nostradamus,
have insight into these records?

ANSWER:
Into some of it,
to a small degree.

As I said,
they may have glimpses of
one plan
for one alternative,
but not
of the many other possibilities
arising out of free will.

That is why such seers are

- sometimes right and
- sometimes wrong.

	<p><i><u>And do not imagine</u></i> <i><u>that such insight</u></i> <i><u>is always</u></i> <i><u>purposefully</u></i> <i><u>given</u></i> <i><u>from the spirit world.</u></i></p> <p><i><u>This may occasionally be so,</u></i> <i><u>but generally this [insight]</u></i> <i><u>happens rather</u></i> <i><u>as a byproduct</u></i> <i><u>of a certain talent of seership</u></i> <i><u>where particular wavelengths meet</u></i> <i><u>and thus</u></i> <i><u>a tuning-in results.</u></i></p>
36	<p>QUESTION: <i><u>Can</u></i> <i><u>deep-seated psychological problems,</u></i> <i><u>pertaining to a previous life,</u></i> <i><u>be solved by</u></i> <i><u>human methods</u></i> <i><u>of hypnosis alone</u></i> <i><u>or does it need regression [i.e., looking back into a previous life]?</u></i></p>
37	<p>ANSWER: <i><u>You mean</u></i> <i><u>whether certain problems,</u></i> <i><u>resulting from a former life,</u></i> <i><u>can be solved</u></i> <i><u>without becoming aware of them [happening in that former life]? {Yes.}</u></i></p> <p><i><u>That depends</u></i> <i><u>very much</u></i> <i><u>on the case.</u></i></p>

There are
many, many cases
where the psychological problems
can be solved

- without regression [into previous incarnations],
- without the knowledge
of the particular incarnation involved.

But there are instances

- where this knowledge [of previous incarnations involved in a problem]
is an absolutely necessary factor,
- where the problem
can be solved
thoroughly
only if
this knowledge is made available.

But these cases
are in the minority.

However,

I would like to add this:

- Only if
the person in question
undergoes the strictest process of
 - self-development and
 - purification,
- only if the
 - steepest and
 - most direct
path
is taken,
 - should or
 - even can
such knowledge
be made available
without harm.

Then [i.e., when the person in question is in the strictest process
of self-development and taking the steepest path]
the spirit world of God
will
• interfere,
will
• direct, and
• help
with
• the right timing and
• the
• proper and
• necessary
guidance and
• see to it
that not more than
just certain sectors of knowledge
are brought back.

Otherwise,
there would be no point
in taking away your memory
when you are born on this planet.

38

All that you hear today
about
• previous incarnations and
• knowledge that is supposed to be
so easily available
should not be believed, my friends.

It [i.e., knowledge about previous incarnations]
is one of the
• hardest,
• most difficult
things to accomplish.

The world of God
guards this knowledge
very carefully.

This knowledge [about previous incarnations]
can never come to you,
be it

- *through hypnosis or*
- *through mediumship,*

without
the spirit world of God.

And the latter [i.e., the spirit world of God]
will not lend a helping hand
if there is not
a very good
spiritual
reason.

If this knowledge [about previous incarnations]
serves the purpose
of further purification,
then
without this knowledge [about previous incarnations]
this

- *further and*
- *utmost*

purification
cannot be accomplished
quite successfully.

It [i.e., knowledge about previous incarnations]
should not be taken

- *merely as a cure –*

let alone

- *to satisfy personal curiosity.*

It [i.e., knowledge about previous incarnations]
must be taken as
a heavy piece of responsibility.

The person should

- think and
- feel

somewhat like this:

"If I learn certain factors
about previous lives,
then I have the duty
to fulfill
even more

in

- my own development and

in

- what I have to give to God."

This knowledge [about previous incarnations]

must be

the material for
further self-purification –
nothing less.

And before this knowledge [about previous incarnations]

is made available,

this attitude [of greater responsibility for your own development
and for what you have to give to God]

has to be proven already,
at least to some extent.

It [i.e., knowledge about previous incarnations]

will not be made available

unless

it is proven

that the person is following this path [of self-knowledge].

39

Now, as to the

- technical and
- practical

procedure

with regression [into previous incarnations]
in hypnosis:

Here it is my

- very strong and
- definite advice

that it should never be undertaken

without

- God and
- Christ.

Both

- the subject and
- the hypnotist

should

- feel themselves
to be instruments and

should

- surrender to God and
- ask for
 - guidance and
 - inspiration.

Otherwise,

it [i.e., regression in hypnosis to access knowledge from previous incarnations]

may be

either

- fake –
and thus have
no meaning whatsoever
in the life of a person –

or even

- dangerous.

But if it [i.e., regression in hypnosis to access knowledge from earlier incarnations]
is undertaken in the proper attitude,

then

the spirit world of God

- will help and
- will, among other things,
show the hypnotist how to go about it.

*There are no definite rules
that can be applied with everyone
in the same way.*

*It [i.e., the way to apply regression in hypnosis to access knowledge
from earlier incarnations]
depends very much*

- *on the case,*
- *on the individual.*

*Therefore, it [i.e., regression in hypnosis to access knowledge
from earlier incarnations]
has to be done
differently with everyone.*

*And only the spirits of the world of God
are in a position
to see into the soul
to know*

- *how much knowledge
this person can digest without shock,*
- *how*
 - *the timing and*
 - *the procedure
should be handled.*

*Only
the soul
is capable
of conducting this operation.*

*It [i.e., the soul]
can do so
if the hypnotist
is open to this*

- *guidance and*
- *inspiration.*

Such a hypnotist
will also have to go through
a particular training of this sort.

This kind of hypnosis [i.e., hypnosis to gain knowledge of previous incarnations]
must be handled
entirely differently
than ordinary hypnosis.

And never,
never,
should one
start with
hypnosis.

Only after
much progress has been achieved
by other approaches,

- in psychological problems
that can be handled
without such regression,
- in purification,
- in uncovering the subconscious trends
for the purpose of harmony in the soul,

only after
some considerable progress of

- spiritual development,
- emotional
 - maturity and
 - stability,

only then
should this treatment [i.e., should regression in hypnosis] be started –
if God has given the answer, as always,
in this matter
just as in others.

I would be very happy,
occasionally,
to give advice in a more specific form.

{Thank you.}

40	<p>QUESTION: <i>You have told us <u>how difficult it is</u> <u>for the spiritual world</u> <u>to prepare a spirit</u> <u>for incarnation in our world.</u></i></p> <p><i><u>The fluids have to be changed,</u> <u>and so on,</u> <u>even in the case</u> <u>of a newborn baby</u> <u>that dies after two days.</u></i></p> <p><i><u>Why all this work</u> <u>for nothing?</u></i></p>
41	<p>ANSWER: <i><u>Oh, the work</u> <u>is not for nothing.</u></i></p> <p><i><u>The mother</u> <u>has to go through a karma</u> <u>and this little baby</u> <u>will be given to another mother.</u></i></p> <p><i>{Immediately?}</i></p> <p><i><u>Certainly.</u></i></p> <p><i><u>It will not</u> <u>go back to the spirit world,</u> <u>it will be brought immediately</u> <u>to the mother</u> <u>who was chosen for it in the first place,</u> <u>for, in the spirit world</u> <u>it is known</u> <u>that the first mother</u> <u>has to go through this karma.</u></i></p>

*This unhappiness [i.e., the death of a newborn baby after only a few days]
is in her [i.e., is in the mother's] plan
that she has somehow sown before
and now she has to reap.*

*It is good for her development
and she thus
pays off a debt.*

*You all know
what the implication of*

- *tests and*
- *unhappy occurrences*

are.

*But the work
is not for nothing,
for all this is*

- *figured out and*
- *planned*

*beforehand
and arrangements are made
before the first birth.*

*And this infant
is carried to the mother
it was destined for
in the first place.*

42

*QUESTION:
Would that hold true
for an infant that has not developed?*

Just started?

In a miscarriage?

*ANSWER:
In such a case
there is no spirit there as yet.*

*The spirit takes possession
the moment the first cry is uttered.*

43

QUESTION:

You say –
and I have heard it from others too –
that the spirit
takes possession
only after
the first cry has been uttered.

But it has been known
that in some cases
a person could remember
hearing the parents talking
while it was still in the womb.

44

ANSWER:

I see what you mean.

But that does not mean
that the child was in the womb.

The child
is not in the womb at that time.

It is outside,
a spirit.

Of course,
among human beings
there are these arguments about various matters,
where
one school of thought
claims one thing
and
another
the opposite

and you will never agree.

I will tell you the way it is.

You can believe it or not.

*It is not correct
that the spirit takes over
at the time of conception.*

*The movement in the womb
is an automatic one,
as I have already explained before.*

*It is caused by the bloodstream of the mother
in order that the limbs will not atrophy.*

*It is necessary,
but merely a technical procedure, so to say.*

*If such memories occur,
it may be in rare instances
that the spirit,
prepared for birth,
is awake at short intervals
and then retains such memories.*

*It may be
close to the parents in this period.*

*But it is even more likely that
this baby
happens to be very
• psychic,
• clairvoyant, or
• clairaudient.*

*After birth it can perceive –
and remember –
certain forms.*

*You know that
thoughts
create
forms
in the spirit world
and the child
perceives them afterward.*

It may also be that
other spirits
repeat the same words after birth
and the child can
• hear and
• remember
them.

Such incidents
• may happen and
• are allowed to happen occasionally
to show to humans
that life
does not originate
on this earth plane.

But then,
people often misinterpret this
in another
wrong way,
namely, like in this instance,
that this is memory
from the time the child
was in the womb.

Humankind
ignores
the many
• complicated and
• involved
possibilities with these things.

45

QUESTION:
I would like to ask something about
the idea of Ahriman [Note: Ahriman is the evil spirit
in the dualistic doctrine of Zoroastrianism].

ANSWER:
I have answered that already some time ago.

All you would have to do is look it up.

*Briefly, I will just repeat
that this [i.e. Ahriman]
is also a spirit*

- *who had once
very high standing
in the world of God and*
- *who also participated in the Fall.*

*Lucifer has given this spirit
the authority
for*

- *this earth sphere,*

for

- *the world of matter,*

for

- *this particular substance.*

*As much power as this spirit has,
he is still
a part of
the Luciferic world.*

To deny this is a great error.

46

QUESTION:
*May I ask,
in connection with the discussion on
the "Pistis Sophia" ["The Wisdom of the Savior", a second-century
Gnostic document].*

*whether
after*

- *giving excerpts and*
- *covering the material
in about five or six sessions,*

*can we then ask you some questions
in the subsequent meeting?*

ANSWER:
*I would even suggest that it is perfectly all right
not to wait until the end of the series,
but ask me in our next meeting.*

	<p><i>This will be better, because it will enable you to get deeper understanding of what you will read and discuss afterward.</i></p>
47	<p>QUESTION: <i>Could you please explain what Jesus meant when he said to Peter, "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it; And I will give thee the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and whatever thou shalt loose on earth shall be bound [sic -- loosed] in Heaven." (Matthew 16: 18-20).</i></p>
48	<p>ANSWER: <i>The meaning is this: Jesus entrusted Peter with His teachings, that he might organize the spreading of His teachings.</i></p> <p><i>Now it is a well-known fact that the Catholic Church builds on the belief that from that time on everything is so settled that nothing this Church says could be wrong – based on the saying you quoted.</i></p> <p><i>And here, I do want to explain this:</i></p> <p><i>What Jesus meant was that Peter should spread the teachings exactly as He has brought them.</i></p>

But that definitely included
a communication with
the spirit world of God.

This communication [with the spirit world of God]
existed very actively at that time,
the time of the first Christians.

Jesus was much too wise
to suggest that
any truth
could be kept undiluted
by spreading
from

- one human being
to another,

from

- one generation
to another.

He knew that
human failings
are still much too great
not to let

- errors and
- false interpretations

slip in –
not to speak of
the danger of
the twisting of truth

- the world of darkness
has always aimed for and
- which
will succeed
as long as
there are unpurified beings
on this earth.

Therefore,
direct communication
with the World of God
is the only way possible [to keep the teachings ever true].

Unfortunately,
human beings have,
sometimes
• ignorantly,
sometimes
• deliberately,
misinterpreted these words [of Jesus to Peter] –
as they have many others, for that matter.

If these words
had been taken in their true sense,
exactly as
• Jesus had taught
and as
• Peter had meant then,
which included
such a communication
with the world of God,
many things
would have been
very different
in your human history.

I know
this will shock some friends,
but I cannot help it.

This is the truth.

And if you
read the Bible
with true
• understanding and
• openness,
you will find
many, many instances
where the sayings of Jesus
cannot be interpreted
in any other way [i.e., a way other than including an ongoing
direct communication with the world of God].

*As a matter of fact,
you will see now,
particularly from the lectures, my friend,
that this is so.*

*You have
one demonstration there
that Jesus always meant you
to contact His spirits of truth.*

*It [i.e., contacting the world of God, Jesus' spirits of truth]
was part of Jesus' teachings
that Peter was supposed to spread.*

*And also –
which was not published,
or later taken out –
• how to go about it,
• what the laws are
to have communication with
the spirits of
• light and
• truth.*

*And when it was said
that Jesus appeared to his disciples after His death,
it was also a form of communication.*

There are many different forms [of communication].

*Later on
Jesus would not appear Himself anymore,
but send His emissaries.*

*And when He said
before His death,*

*"There are many things I cannot tell you as yet,
but will tell you later,"*

*how do you imagine He could tell that,
unless through such a communication
for which
• certain laws have to be obeyed and
• certain conditions prepared?*

*This [i.e., how to communicate with the world of God, with
the spirits of light and truth]*
was an integral part of His teachings
that was,
unfortunately,
for various reasons,

- *not maintained or*
- *even distorted.*

Furthermore,
this quotation means
that anyone –

- *then or*
- *now –*

who binds himself to God
through adhering to
the teachings of Jesus
that Peter was to

- *maintain,*
- *spread and*
- *organize,*

would also
be bound to the Father
in the Kingdom of Heaven and
could never be lost anymore.

But anyone
who

- *refuses these teachings and*
- *loosens himself thus further from God,*

will also be lost after death –
not forever,
but for as long as this attitude prevails.

50

This inner declaration
to

- *put God above everything else and*
- *follow His will*

in every respect
marks a decisive step
in the development of a soul –
sometimes this is called an "initiation."

This is the meaning of it [i.e., the meaning of this statement of Jesus to Peter]
in its essence,
and certainly

not

that

- *God and*
- *Christ*

would only manifest
through one human church-organization
which alone
should be immune

- *to human failings*
- and thus*
- *to the influence of the powers of darkness.*

This would make no sense.

Whoever

- *follows the real teachings of Christ and*
- *seeks the*
 - *development and*
 - *purification**through which*
it is possible to hold the laws of God
- *is indeed immune to all evil –*
"Hell will not prevail" – and
- *will thus gain*
the Kingdom of Heaven.

But that [i.e., following the real teachings of Christ and seeking
development and purification]
is the only way that this [i.e., that gaining the Kingdom of Heaven]
can happen,
the only way,
my friends!

And I believe that this
must make sense to you.

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*And now, my friends,
I will retire into my world,
and I am leaving you
with a particular blessing
for each one of you.*

*May it give you
the strength to*
• find yourself truly
and thus
• live in
• bliss and
• joy!

Be joyful,
for whoever is seeking God
through his own
• good and
• sincere
will,
has all the reason in the world
to have joy
in his heart.

Be in peace.

Be in God!

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