

Pathwork Lecture 29: The Forces of Activity and Passivity – Finding God’s Will

1996 Edition, Original Given May 9, 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

¶	Content
03	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Greetings</u> <u>in the name of</u> <u>the Lord.</u> <u>I bring blessings</u> <u>for all of you,</u> <u>my friends.</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Blessed</u> <u>is this hour</u> [i.e., <u>blessed is this time</u> <u>we now spend together in this lecture].</u></p>
04	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>There are</u> <u>twelve basic</u> <u>• active</u> <u>• forces and</u> <u>twelve basic</u> <u>• passive</u> <u>• forces or</u> <u>• principles</u> <u>in the universe.</u></p>

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According to
the scheme of the
"Pistis Sophia,"
these [twelve active and twelve passive] forces
are

- concentrated in
the highest realm of light and

 - conducted by
respective entities
who are each
 - a representative or
 - a personification
of each of these
 - active and
 - passive
- principles.

They [i.e., these forces and their respective entities]
are all
perfect
in their own way.

The whole universe
is penetrated
by these forces and
an infinite

- variety and
- combination

of them [i.e., an infinite variety and combination of these forces]
is possible.

In the "Pistis Sophia"
the expression
"twenty-four invisibles"
refers to

- the principles [or forces]

as well as to

- the [respective] entities.

They [i.e., the “twenty-four invisibles”]
are invisible
in all spheres
below
the highest realm of light.

But in the latter sphere [i.e., in the sphere of the highest realm of light],
the
• principles or
• forces
as well as
• their personified entities
are visible
in the form of
• rays or
• fine threads
running through the atmosphere.

They [i.e., the principles or forces and their personified entities]
are noticeable
not only by various
• colors and
• shades,
but also by
• scent and
• tone and
• other qualities
that are unknown
to human sense-perception.

05

I am telling you about this
not merely
to give you information about the higher spheres,
for that
in itself
would not be sufficient reason [for telling you about the higher spheres],
interesting as this knowledge may be.

You should always
get some practical benefit out of these lectures
for use in your actual life,
right here and now.

Since
every
• force or
• principle
present in the universe
also penetrates
each individual human soul,
you will see that
a benefit
can be derived
from this
seemingly abstract
piece of information.

In other words,
a personal connection
• can and
• should
be made,
for
the whole universe
is within you.

06

How human beings
• exploit and
• direct
these
• principles or
• forces
determines
their
• lives,
their
• harmony, and
their
• happiness.

I have often mentioned that
• activity and
• passivity
are two basic divine aspects
in the universe.

Now
you can see
that there is
not just
• one active
and
• one passive
principle
in existence,
but
• twelve
of each [i.e. twelve active principles and twelve
passive principles].

For humanity
the question arises
when to assume an
• active
and
when a
• passive
attitude?

When should you use
the free will
you have been endowed with,
which corresponds to
activity,
and when should
free will
not be exercised –
which is a state corresponding to
passivity –
so that
God's will
can be fulfilled?

It is in these terms
that you think about
the matter [i.e., think about the matter of free will, activity and passivity],
but herein lies
a fundamental error,
my friends.

For it is
not in the least true
that you can be
passive
when you want to
fulfill God's will.

In order to
truly
fulfill the will of God
you need
a great deal of

- activity and
- willpower.

07

When
the active forces
are used in the channels
destined for
the passive currents,
a congestion occurs,
and the result is
frustration for the human being.

If
the passive forces
replace
the active ones,
entering the channels
where the active principle
should

- *work and*
- *flow freely,*

there will

- *not be congestion* [*as occurs when the active forces enter channels*
destined for passive forces],

but rather a

- *standstill or*
- *stagnation,*

not only in

- *general development,*
which, of course,
the wrong use of
the active forces brings about too,

but a sluggishness in

- *particular aspects*
of the human soul,

and gradually
it [*i.e., passive forces entering the channels destined for the active forces*]
will affect
the entire inner makeup of the person.

08

Any person on the path
has a great need to find out
in what respect
the forces
should be

- *active*

or

- *passive.*

I will try to shed light on this subject.

My words will also help you
to understand that
passivity
is not necessary
to fulfill the will of God.

You should
at all times
• be active and
• use your willpower –
which does
not mean self-will,
for these [i.e. willpower and self-will]
are two different things –
to adhere to
the laws of God,
which you know.

And that [i.e., the laws of God relevant to a given situation]
is not so difficult to find out,
even for people
who do not receive
• these particular teachings and
• personal guidance.

People

- **who find God**
in any of the current existing
 - **religions or**
 - **philosophies and**

people

- **who are not particularly close to God,**
- **who may be**
 - **agnostics or**
 - **even atheists,**
- **but who have**
high standards of
 - **ethics and**
 - **morals,**

do know

- what is**
• **right**

and

- what is**
• **wrong**

if they simply

- **face the particular issue and**
- **ask themselves**
 - **honest and**
 - **self-probing**
questions.

**Then [i.e., if they face the particular issue and ask themselves
the necessary honest and self-probing questions]
they will know [what is right and what is wrong].**

In order to do

**just that [i.e., in order to just face the particular issue and ask
yourself the necessary honest and self-probing questions in
order to discern what is right and then do the right],**

**you certainly do need
your willpower.**

09	<p><u>However,</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>where the passive forces should hold sway, and</u>• <u>where they are unfortunately often replaced by your active forces,</u> <p><u>are all the instances in which you cannot change</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>circumstances or</u>• <u>other people.</u> <p><u>People are inclined to revolt inwardly</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>when things do not go according to their will and</u>• <u>when other people are wrong.</u> <p><u>Then [i.e., when people are inwardly revolting because things do not go according to their will and because other people are wrong] an active movement begins to take the place of passivity.</u></p>
10	<p><u>Whenever an emotion is felt and you follow that emotion through to its roots, you will discover that a desire is behind it.</u></p> <p><u>Desire means activity.</u></p>

You may have
right desires:

- going on a path of purification, for example, or
- learning to love
are such.

- Overcoming your weaknesses, or
- wanting to be honest with yourself,
which causes pain at first,
are other
 - positive,
 - constructive
desires.

Therefore

the active force

must be put in use

in order to fulfill them [i.e., to fulfill the

positive, constructive desires].

But there are also
negative desires.

Whenever

- resentment,
- fear,
- hatred,

and the like

are in your heart,

there is

a negative desire

and therefore

an active force

is used

instead of

a passive one.

Since a

wrong desire

cannot really be fulfilled, and

if it appears

to be fulfilled

the fulfillment

is very

- temporary and
- illusory,

you become frustrated.

11

Practically speaking,
what must
your attitude be like
in those instances
when you are
supposed to be
passive?

You cannot
change
• this world or
• other people,
my friends.

In your intellect
you may know that
very well indeed,
but
do your emotions
always
know it?

Certainly not!

It remains to be seen
whether
your emotions
• will
or
• will not
begin to follow
what you
know
in your intellect.

So the proper attitude
would be
to accept
what you cannot change,
namely the
• actions and
• attitudes
of other people and
• circumstances
outside your control.

	<p><u>Accept these</u> [<u>attitudes and actions of other people and</u> <u>circumstances outside your control</u>]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>really and</u>• <u>truly</u> <u>in your</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>emotions</u> <p><u>as well as</u> <u>in your</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>superficial knowledge,</u></p> <p><u>and you will</u> <u>re-channel</u> <u>the wrongly used</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>active</u><u>and</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>passive</u> <u>currents.</u></p>
12	<p><u>This also means</u> <u>to accept</u> <u>the imperfection</u> <u>of this earth sphere</u> <u>with humility,</u> <u>knowing that</u> <u>since you are not perfect,</u> <u>you</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>cannot and</u>• <u>must not</u> <u>resent others' imperfections,</u> <u>even though</u> <u>they may be different</u> <u>from your own.</u></p> <p><u>It even means</u> <u>to accept</u> <u>your own imperfections,</u> <u>which does</u> <u>not mean that</u> <u>you should</u> <u>want</u> <u>to remain that way.</u></p>

You have to
recognize
your imperfections
and accept
for now
that they actually do exist.

Right now
you possess
many imperfections
you have not yet accepted
in a conscious way
and therefore
you revolt against
this state of affairs [i.e., you revolt against the state of affairs brought
about by your many unconscious imperfections].

In the
act of revolting [against the state of affairs brought
about by your many unconscious imperfections
you set
an active force in motion
where
a passive one
should exist.

Only after
the passive force [by which you see, make conscious and accept
your many imperfections]
has been cultivated

can
a different kind of
active current [i.e., other than the act of revolting against the state of
affairs brought about by your many unconscious imperfections]
be brought to bear

so you can
gradually
begin to overcome
the imperfection [that gives rise to the state of affairs you do not want].

	<p><u>As long as</u> <u>you revolt against things</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>that cannot be changed, or</u>• <u>that could only be changed</u> <p><u>by a different inner activity</u> [i.e., <u>by an inner passive activity where you make conscious and accept your imperfections that are causing the state of affairs you do not want and against which you revolt</u>],</p> <p><u>there is</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>a pressure and</u>• <u>an inner pushing</u> <p><u>against a stone wall</u> [i.e., <u>against the “stone wall” of the state of affairs brought about by your own unconscious imperfections</u>].</p> <p><u>As long as</u> <u>you do not</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>relinquish or</u>• <u>relax</u> <p><u>this pushing force</u> <u>going in the wrong direction,</u></p> <p><u>you</u> <u>cannot</u> <u>make order</u> <u>in your soul.</u></p>
13	<p><u>Learn to recognize</u> <u>where your desires</u> <u>surge into</u> <u>wrong directions.</u></p>

If the
active pressure of
the wrong desires
is relaxed,
you will have
much more strength left
for the

- good and
- proper

desires
where
an active force
is badly needed
but
where
you are presently
too weak.

Why [are you too weak]?

Not because
less strength
has been given to you
than to other people,
but because
you have
not managed
your household well.

You have
allowed

- disorder,
- disorganization, and
- mismanagement

to set in.

The

- exactly right and
- necessary

amount of strength
is available
for each one of you
to fulfill your life
as well as possible.

	<p><u><i>It is up to you to</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u><i>use this strength properly and</i></u>• <u><i>not waste it.</i></u>
14	<p><u><i>Do not believe for one moment that those who appear</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u><i>weak and</i></u>• <u><i>without will</i></u> <p><u><i>use less active force than the obviously</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u><i>strong and</i></u>• <u><i>self-willed ones.</i></u> <p><u><i>Often the contrary is true.</i></u></p> <p><u><i>The former [i.e., those who appear weak and without will] simply do not display their will on the surface because of other, psychologically conflicting trends.</i></u></p> <p><u><i>But within their soul everything sizzles under the pressure of their frustrated will that pushes in the wrong direction [i.e., their will pushes to change that which cannot be changed without first addressing their many unconscious imperfections causing their problems].</i></u></p>

*They [i.e., those whose frustrated will
pushes in the wrong direction]
may not be
consciously
aware of this condition [of pushing in the
wrong direction]*

*but the symptoms
of their misapplied activity
must show
by their
diminished*

- *health,*
- *strength, and*
- *peace of mind.*

*The moment
you become
passive
where you
should actually be
passive –
not in*

- *your thoughts alone,
deceiving yourself,*

but in

- *your innermost emotions,*

*you will have
a new*

- *strength and*
- *life force*

that you have not known before.

*For this to happen [i.e., for you to have this new strength and life force]
you have to
accept
that which you cannot change
immediately
by direct action.*

15

So far,
this may
still sound confusing to you,
my friends,
because
you do not know
how to find
your real feelings.

Knowing how to begin [to find your real feelings]
is not half as difficult
as you may think.

The fundamental factor is
again
• to get to
know yourself,
• to ask yourself
the pertinent questions.

This is really
very simple,
once you decide
to accept
the unavoidable necessity
of doing it [i.e., the unavoidable necessity of getting to know yourself
by asking yourself the pertinent questions].

Each time
you feel
an unpleasant emotion
like
• anger,
• anxiety, or
• resentment –
and your days are often
full of such emotions –
stop rationalizing it [i.e., stop rationalizing the unpleasant emotion] away
by thinking of
the wrong attitudes
of others.

Instead, ask yourself,
"What do I
really want?"

Know that
the moment there is
emotion
in you,
there is something
you want.

Otherwise
you would not feel that way.

I certainly
do not say that
all
emotions
are wrong,
but
unpleasant emotions
must have
a faulty premise
somewhere,
no matter
how wrong
others may be.

The assumption of
a faulty premise
often manifests in
an active pressure
to change a

- condition or
- circumstance

where
acceptance
should reign.

16

Find out
what this pressing desire is
and examine it.

It does take

- **training, and**
- **forming the habit**

of observing yourself

from this point of view [i.e., from the point of view that unpleasant emotions in you are due to a faulty premise in you that says you should actively try to change a given situation, circumstance or condition that goes against your desire, rather than accept it],

but

how beneficial
this way of thinking is!

Once you

- **begin**
- **and do not let up,**

you will see that it [i.e., that observing yourself from the point of view that unpleasant emotions in you are due to a faulty premise in you that says you should actively try to change a given situation, circumstance or condition that goes against your desire, rather than accept it]

becomes

- **second nature,**
 - **a good habit**
- without which**

you

- **would not and**
 - **should not**
- want to live anymore.**

It [i.e., this habit of observing yourself from the point of view that unpleasant emotions in you are due to a faulty premise in you that says you should actively try to change a given situation, circumstance or condition that goes against your desire, rather than accept it]

is part of

the daily
cleansing of the soul.

	<p><u>Before</u> <u>you start looking at yourself</u> <u>in this way [i.e., from the point of view that unpleasant emotions in you are due to a faulty premise in you that says you should actively try to change a given situation, circumstance or condition that goes against your desire, rather than accept it],</u> <u>you are</u> <u>often caught up</u> <u>in an emotional confusion</u> <u>about the nature of your soul.</u></p> <p><u>You do not realize</u> <u>clearly</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>what is going on in you, and</u>• <u>what your desires are.</u> <p><u>Once you begin</u> <u>to focus your attention</u> <u>on the feelings,</u> <u>noticing</u> <u>what the desire is</u> <u>behind them,</u> <u>recognition [of what is going on in your soul and what your desires are]</u> <u>becomes</u> <u>very simple, indeed.</u></p>
17	<p><u>And that [i.e., self-knowledge – recognition of what is going on in your soul and what your desires are]</u> <u>is the purpose of</u> <u>the daily review</u> <u>I mention so often.</u></p> <p><u>But if some of you</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>cannot or</u>• <u>do not like to</u> <p><u>do your discovery work</u> <u>in the form of</u> <u>daily review,</u> <u>there are</u> <u>other ways of doing it [i.e., other ways of doing your self-discovery work].</u></p>

Whenever you have a free moment,
think about
the past few hours and
think what
your feelings
actually were
• during them [during the past few hours] or
• during
any particular experience.

Then ask yourself,
"What is my desire?"

And when you find
the answer [to the question, "What is my desire?"],
you will
already
have a clue [as to what is going on in you].

The answer [to the question, "What is my desire?"]
will often be that
another person
has done
• something wrong or
• what seems wrong
to you and
you want [i.e., you desire]
that person to change.

There
you can actually observe
close at hand
that
where you should be passive,
you are active
because
you
actively desire
a change [in the other person whom you think
has wronged you, a change]
that you cannot bring about.

When these
overactive desires
run in the wrong channel [i.e., run in the channel that calls for passivity
rather than actively trying to make the other person change in some way],
you completely forget
those instants
when
you
have the power to change,
if you would only
look at yourself [rather than try to change the other person].

For there is
so much power
given to each one of you!

Yet,
you do not realize it.

Why [do you not realize that you have been given so much power, i.e., you have been
given all the power you need]?

Because
you misdirect your power
into the wrong channels [i.e., into the channels of trying to change others
rather than into the channels of changing yourself]
and it goes to waste.

You use it up
unproductively.

18

If you learn to
examine yourself
in this manner [i.e., by looking at the desires behind your feelings],
you will
not only find

- wrong and
- unfulfillable

desires in you
but

- conflicting

desires as well.

You often

- wish
at one and the same time
for two impossible things and
- create
a short circuit within,
stemming from
these conflicting desires.

Become aware of
the paradoxical
state of affairs
within you.

The only way you can do so
is by practicing
any type of
daily review.

Use
self-honesty
to examine

- your feelings and
- the desires behind them.

That is the process
to reach maturity,
my friends.

19

Your

- unconscious and
- often conflicting

desires
are
always
immature.

You often
desire the impossible,
like a child;

you find yourself
desiring something

- that cannot be had, or
- for which
you are not prepared
to pay the price.

The fact
that you

- do not consider the problem
from this angle, and
- are therefore unaware
that there is a price to be paid
for each desired gratification,
does not alter the circumstances
in the least.

In your
unwillingness
to pay the necessary price
for a desired goal,
you leave the issue
in the unconscious,
thinking childishly
to get around it.

It is uncomfortable
to

- realize and
- obey
the laws of justice,

so by leaving the issue
in the unconscious
you make yourself
ill,
not only

- physically,

but

- on all levels of your existence.

20

So, my dear friends,
try to

- observe yourselves;
- identify
your real desires.

You will be surprised
how much relief
this knowledge alone [i.e., knowledge of your real desires and their price]
will already bring you,
provided
you have
wholeheartedly
decided to do so [i.e., wholeheartedly decided to identify
your real desires and their price],
without any subterfuges.

You will be relieved
by the mere knowledge [i.e., the mere knowledge of your real desires
and their price],

for that

- will explain the mishaps of your life and
- will strengthen your trust in
 - God's justice and
 - the wonderful order of the universe.

God
does not want you
to be a puppet
dependent on
the wrong concept of divinity
that makes you
hold on to God's apron strings,
expecting Him
to run your life for you.

Then [i.e., when you make yourself a puppet dependent on
the wrong concept of divinity]
of course
if your life
is not what you want it to be,
you can blame Him for it
in some hidden way.

In reality
God wants you to be
• independent and
• strong,
and you can only be that
by following the way
I am showing you.

You can conduct your life satisfactorily,
but
He will not do it for you.

He will let
you
run your own life,
and if it becomes
a mess,
then it is
• you
who must change,
not
• others or
• circumstances.

However,
you
can even control
• circumstances and
• other people
the moment
you start allowing
• your wrong overactive currents
to become
• passive and
• the wrong passive currents
to become
• active.

	<p><i><u>For those purified currents [i.e., the right passive and active currents running in their right respective channels]</u></i></p> <p><i><u>will</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i><u>emanate from you and</u></i>• <i><u>indirectly affect</u></i> <i><u>the subconscious of other people.</u></i> <p><i><u>And that effect</u></i></p> <p><i><u>will come back to you</u></i></p> <p><i><u>gradually,</u></i></p> <p><i><u>in the form of</u></i></p> <p><i><u>more</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i><u>truthful and</u></i>• <i><u>harmonious</u></i> <i><u>interactions.</u></i>
21	<p><i><u>Now the question of</u></i></p> <p><i><u>what the will of God is for you</u></i></p> <p><i><u>still remains open.</u></i></p> <p><i><u>I have said that</u></i></p> <p><i><u>it is not only</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i><u>wrong</u></i> <i><u>to believe that you</u></i> <i><u>have to be passive</u></i> <i><u>in order to fulfill God's will,</u></i> <p><i><u>but it is</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i><u>impossible</u></i> <i><u>to be</u></i> • <i><u>passive and</u></i>• <i><u>without a will</u></i> <i><u>to do that [i.e., to fulfill God's will].</u></i> <p><i><u>To fulfill the will of God</u></i></p> <p><i><u>means</u></i></p> <p><i><u>overcoming</u></i></p> <p><i><u>your inner resistances</u></i></p> <p><i><u>and for that [i.e., for overcoming your inner resistances to fulfilling the will of God]</u></i></p> <p><i><u>you do need</u></i></p> <p><i><u>activity,</u></i></p> <p><i><u>although</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i><u>of a different kind,</u></i>• <i><u>running on different tracks, so to speak.</u></i>

	<p><u>But</u> [to fulfill the will of God] <u>you need</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>activity and</u>• <u>strength of will</u> <u>nevertheless.</u> <p><u>The passivity</u> <u>is necessary,</u> <u>though certainly</u> <u>not</u> <u>in order to</u> <u>fulfill God's will.</u></p>
22	<p><u>First of all,</u> <u>you confuse</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>God's will</u> <p><u>with</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>self-will.</u> <p><u>Let us determine clearly</u> <u>what is</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>self-will</u> <p><u>in comparison with</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>free will.</u> <p><u>Self-will</u> <u>is the will</u> <u>of the little ego.</u></p> <p><u>Free will</u> <u>comprises everything:</u> <u>you can use</u> <u>free will</u> <u>for</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>good</u> <p><u>or</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>bad</u> <p><u>ends.</u></p> <p><u>That is up to you.</u></p>

	<p><u>To agree on the terminology</u> <u>so as not to invite any misunderstandings:</u></p> <p><u>self-will</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>belongs to</u> <u>the little blind ego and</u>• <u>is thus</u> <u>the will of</u> <u>the lower self.</u>
23	<p><u>Now, in order to find</u> <u>God's will,</u> <u>you must certainly</u> <u>be free of</u> <u>self-will,</u></p> <p><u>but your</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>active and</u>• <u>clean</u> <u>willpower</u> <u>must be used,</u> <p><u>first,</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>for the desire</u> <u>to meet your resistances [against following God's will]</u> <u>without any</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>wishful thinking and</u>• <u>self-deception;</u> <p><u>second,</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>for making sure</u> <u>that you do leave</u> <u>your self-will</u> <u>aside; and</u> <p><u>third,</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>for preparation</u> <u>to use your willpower</u> <u>even more actively</u> <u>to follow</u> <u>the will of God</u> <u>once you know it.</u>

To determine
what the will of God is
in individual instances,
you very rarely need
a transcendent revelation.

God's will
is always
contained within you,
behind
your blind spots.

From the moment you take off
• your masks and
• the rose-colored glasses you use
when you view
• your own self,
• your motives, and
• your life,

God's will
must evolve
• clearly and
• without a doubt.

It will evolve
as you
• discover your
real desires and
• put them down in black and white and
• say to yourself,
"This is what I actually want
when I am honest with myself."

You may be surprised
how this
• newly-discovered
• inner
wanting
deviates from
• your conscious desires.

But do not believe
that because of this conflict [between your newly-discovered inner wanting
and your conscious desires]
you are
despicable.

No,
you should know
that your soul
consists of layers
which may be called

- *the higher self*

and

- *the lower self.*

Accept
that
both are in you
and all will be well.

Then you will not lose
your sense of proportion
in evaluating yourself,
either exaggerating

- *in one direction*

or [exaggerating]

- *in the other.*

25

The moment you do

- *examine*
a particular desire
of your lower self and
- *bring it into your consciousness –*
being careful
not to allow it to slip away again
into unconsciousness –

you will be able
to know quite clearly
what is God's will
in nine out of ten cases.

I can promise you that.

	<p><u>Examine</u> <u>the various chain reactions</u> <u>that led you to the present state,</u> <u>consider</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>the repercussions,</u>• <u>the significance, and</u>• <u>the consequences</u> <p><u>of your desire and</u> <u>compare it [i.e., compare your desire]</u> <u>with the spiritual laws</u> <u>as far as you know them.</u></p>
26	<p><u>If you</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>are in a certain situation now</u> <u>which you want to change, or</u>• <u>face a difficult decision,</u> <p><u>you will of course</u> <u>not know what God's will is</u> <u>if you merely let it go at that [i.e., merely let it go at looking at</u> <u>various chain reactions that led you to the present state or</u> <u>at comparing your desire with spiritual laws].</u></p> <p><u>But the moment you ask</u> <u>more penetrating questions of yourself</u> <u>concerning</u> <u>underlying desires</u> <u>that may be responsible for your present state,</u> <u>the answer [as to what God's will is in a particular situation]</u> <u>must evolve</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>clearly,</u>• <u>strongly, and</u>• <u>self-evidently.</u> <p><u>It [i.e., the answer as to what God's will is in a particular situation]</u> <u>will evolve all the</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>quicker and</u>• <u>better</u> <p><u>if you</u> <u>enlist God's help for this purpose,</u> <u>because God</u> <u>never gives any help of this sort</u> <u>if you have not made the first step.</u></p>

	<p><u>The first step,</u> <u>in addition to</u> <u>your sincere goodwill to</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>purify yourself and</u>• <u>do God's will in all instances,</u><u>is always</u> <u>your endeavor toward</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>self-knowledge,</u>• <u>self-honesty.</u></p> <p><u>The</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>wise and</u>• <u>mature</u><u>attitude, of course,</u> <u>is</u> <u>not believing</u> <u>that you can change</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>from one day to another or</u>• <u>without making an effort</u> <u>on your own behalf.</u></p>
27	<p><u>If your present situation</u> <u>feels</u> <u>unsatisfactory</u> <u>in any way, or</u> <u>if you are</u> <u>not clear about</u> <u>a decision you are called upon to make,</u></p> <p><u>do not expect God</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>to decide for you or</u>• <u>to alter an unpleasant situation</u> <u>without your active participation in the process.</u></p> <p><u>You have to</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>realize that there must be something in you</u> <u>that contributed to the undesirable circumstance</u> <u>to begin with and</u>• <u>be willing to</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>find what it is</u><u>and</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>change it.</u></p>

Do not forget
that the wrong
is not necessarily
a sinful
• action or
• thought,
but [often rather] an
unrecognized
• emotion
that
• surges in a wrong channel or
• violates a spiritual law.

God recognizes
your goodwill, and
if you
combine
• prayer
with
• the work of
• self-examination and
• tearing down your masks,

His answer
will become ever more clear,
so that
there will be
no possible room for doubt in you.

But as long as
your resistance against
this way of working persists,
no matter what the
• pretexts and
• excuses
are,
• the sluggishness and
• the immaturity
of your lower self
has the better of you.

	<p><u>You will have</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>wrong reactions and</u>• <u>distorted instincts,</u> <p><u>which you will then want to interpret</u> <u>to fit the resistance</u> <u>of your lower self.</u></p>
28	<p><u>The only way</u> <u>you can positively know</u> <u>whether a</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>right and</u>• <u>good</u> <p><u>instinct</u></p> <p><u>or a</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>wrong and</u>• <u>false</u> <p><u>one</u> <u>guides you</u> <u>is by the</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>happiness,</u>• <u>relief,</u>• <u>freedom, and the</u>• <u>sense of</u>• <u>utter rightness and</u>• <u>peace with the world</u> <p><u>that you will have</u> <u>as a result of it [i.e., the result of following the instinct] –</u></p> <p><u>or by the</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>experience</u> <p><u>of the very opposite.</u></p> <p><u>If your will</u> <u>is free of</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>self-pampering and</u> <p><u>is</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>pure and</u>• <u>humble,</u> <p><u>God's will</u> <u>can clearly manifest,</u> <u>no matter</u> <u>how</u> <u>He chooses to reveal Himself to you.</u></p>

In many instances
you will
not need
a particular revelation,
but with

- *your good efforts and*
- *God's help*
enlisted in prayer,

you will find out
the answer [regarding the will of God in a given instance]
for yourself.

God will help you
through His angels
so that you

- *can do it better and*
- *have more support*
from the spirit world and
- *receive*
more
 - *guidance and*
 - *help.*

You
must be the one
to decide,
"I want to do it [i.e., I want to do God's will]
wholeheartedly."

- *Then God*
will help you.
- *Then there will be*
no problem
knowing what God's will is
for you.

29

- *The answer and*
- *the key*
to God's will
are within you.

It [i.e., the answer regarding God's will for you in a particular instance]
lies in
your imperfections;
it lies in
every instance
where you have

- deviated from or
- broken

a spiritual law,
be it merely in your
unconscious
desire-currents.

And then,
as you digest the answers [as to the will of God for you in a particular instance],

- the active process
will start functioning properly
as by itself and
flow into the right channels;

and so will

- the passive forces.

Yes, my friends,
this change [of the active and passive processes functioning properly and
flowing into the right channels]

- will and
- must
happen.

It cannot be otherwise.

And that, of course,
will change
your entire life
for the better.

30

QUESTION:
How can we tell
if desires
come from

- the higher

or

- the lower self?

31

ANSWER:

By examining

- ***the desires and***
- ***their real motives.***

- ***Very clearly and***
- ***very concisely***
ask yourself the question,

***"What is it
I want and
why
do I want such and such?"***

***What is
my real motive
behind [wanting] it?"***

***You see,
it may very often be
that you have***

- ***a right desire***
- ***coming from***
- ***a good motive.***

***At the same time
there is also
an impure motive in [wanting] it.***

***The moment you recognize this [i.e., the moment you recognize that there are pure
as well as impure motives in wanting such and such],
you already
have done something
for your purification.***

32

***Purifying
does not mean
that you are
already perfect;
purification
is the process of
becoming perfect.***

An integral part
of the [purification] process
is to say,

"In addition to my
• good motive,
there is also a
• selfish or
• vain
motive
hidden under
the good cause."

Take the example of a person
who is spiritually
very active
with
• clean and
• pure
motives
to help other people.

These good motives
exist
indubitably [i.e., they exist beyond a shadow of a doubt].

At the same time,
the desire-current
of the lower self
mingles with
the good motives,
perhaps
as the ego's
vain desire
to be
• outstanding,
to be
• admired,
to be
• an authority.

The moment
the mixture of [both pure and impure] motives
is
• calmly and
• freely
recognized,
even if
you are
as yet
incapable of shedding
the impure ones,
purification
is already taking place.

With such an act [i.e., with the act of calmly and freely
recognizing both the pure and impure motives],
you have already
raised your consciousness
to a pretty high degree.

Something
in the chemistry of your
• body and
• soul
begins to change
with such clear
self-recognition,
because
you approach
truth.

33

The
• severest and
• most frequent
violation of spiritual law
that is so often
overlooked by human beings
is
not living in truth.

[By my statement, "not living in truth is the severest violation of spiritual law"]

You all imagine
that I mean
you should not lie.

I do
not
mean that at all.

It is self-understood
that a person

- should be honest and
- should not lie.

But

- lying to oneself

is often
infinitely more

- dangerous and
- harmful

than

- lying to others.

Why
is it more dangerous [to lie to yourself than to lie to others]?

Because
when you lie to

- others,

at least

- you are aware of it;
- you know it.

Thus you are a step nearer to truth
than when you lie to

- yourself.

When you lie
to yourself,
you do not realize it,
not because

- you cannot,

but because

- you do not want to!

So [in lying to yourself, and in not wanting to realize that you are lying to yourself]
you have
completely
turned away from truth.

That [i.e., completely turning away from truth by not wanting to
realize that you are lying to yourself]
is a very grave violation,
setting you apart
from God.

It [i.e., completely turning away from truth by not wanting to
realize that you are lying to yourself]
surrounds you
with a dark wall
behind which
you must be
unhappy,
quite apart from the
outer conflicts
which the violation [of spiritual law]
creates for you
sooner or later.

Behind the wall
you are

- lonely and
- lost.

The only way
you can find your way
into the light
is by

- tearing down the wall and
- looking at what is behind it,
even if
what you find
is unpleasant.

The first time [you tear down pieces of the wall that hides you from yourself and
look at what is behind it]
you will struggle,
but after you have torn down
the first few stones of the wall,
the relief will be tremendous.

Then [i.e., after you have torn down the first few stones of the dark wall that
hides you from yourself]
you will know
what it means
to be on this path.

You will know
that

- only this manner of working [i.e., that only honest self-observation]

and

- nothing else
counts,
my friends.

34

I am trying to make you understand
that you are
not
unfree creatures
if you decide to
fulfill the will of God –
quite the contrary.

For it needs the

- greatest and
- freest

efforts of willpower
to decide
to live within
spiritual law.

In order to do that [i.e., in order to live within spiritual law],
as I have explained,
it is necessary
to recognize
your

- *innermost motives and*
- *hidden currents.*

Only a
free person
can do that [i.e., only a free person can recognize
his or her innermost motives
and hidden currents].

Conversely,
if people
constantly
decide to use their little self-will,
they become
more
and more

- *bound and*
- *chained.*

For
the more
you live in divine law,
the freer
you must become,
and
the more
you break divine law,
the more enslaved
you must become.

People who
do not recognize
their hidden motives
cannot conduct their lives
freely.

They are enslaved
to their
• lower selves,
to their
• unrecognized desires,
which
• push
and
• pull
them
• backward and
• forward,
• left and
• right.

35

QUESTION:
Does that mean that
whatever we want to do,
we always have to ask God,
"Is this Thy will?"

Or do you have to see
whether it [i.e., see whether whatever we want to do]
does not deviate from God's law?

36

ANSWER:
I would suggest this:

In the first place,
when you are on this path,
you begin to make
an inventory
about your own person,
as I have often suggested.

Compile a list,
not only of
your
• faults,
your
• qualities and
• virtues,
in other words of
• what you
are,
but also of
• what you
want.

• What are
your desires
really?

And when you have done that,
begin
a constant process
of self-analysis
of your feelings
every day.

You will
automatically
get to know after a while
in what respect
you have obviously deviated from
divine law
in your emotional currents.

Sometimes,
when you discover
the nature of a
hidden
desire,
you will know
at once
that it [i.e., that the hidden desire]
is contrary to God's will,
even without
any metaphysical knowledge.

In other cases,
you may have to
probe a little deeper
and separate
• the clean motive
from
• the impure [motive]
in the same desire current.

As you view
what is at stake
in an issue,
you will seldom find an answer
by asking
whether the action you contemplate
is
• right
or
• wrong.

Since
none of you
would ever consider
committing an
• antisocial or
• sinful
act,
the decisions
you are faced with
could be
right
either way [you decide]
in principle.

Yet,
for each individual
there is
always
• only one
right way
and
• many, many
wrong ways
possible.

So you have to consider

your

- *honest motives*

behind

your

- *apparent good motives;*

that [consideration of your honest motives behind your apparent good motives]
will determine the

- *right*

or

- *wrong*
action

for you,

not

the ethical value
of the action itself.

As long as

you have not found

all

the motives
behind a desire,

you will

not be able to know
the right action
for you.

The right procedure is

not to ask God

simply to let you know
whether to do such and such,
thus avoiding
the work of
self-knowledge
on your part.

There may be
isolated instances
where this [i.e., where to ask God to let you know what the right action is]
can be the right thing to do,
but not generally,
not when there seems to be

- a repetitive pattern and
- a conflict involved.

The right procedure
is to decide
wholeheartedly
that
you wish to find
all the motives
behind
the conscious motive,
and for that [i.e., for finding all the motives behind the conscious motive]
you should pray
for God's help.

Then He will help you.

Is that clear?

QUESTIONER: Yes.

37

ANSWER:
So find out
your underlying motives –
which does
not mean that
the [conscious] motive on the surface
is annulled.

But the other part [of your motive]
that is mixed in with it [i.e., that is mixed with the conscious motive]
has to be found.

Then you will have the answer [as to whether some action you are
contemplating is in accord with God's will for you].

38

*There is one more thing I would like to say to you
before we turn to your general questions.*

It is about

• *the outer will*

and

• *the inner will.*

By the latter [i.e., by the “inner will”]

I do

not

only mean

the subconscious will.

The inner will

I speak of

can be made

conscious

comparatively easily.

I have often

given you the advice

to listen within you

where your

• *solar plexus or*

• *spiritual field*

is.

You may

receive answers from there;

you may

feel

• *right*

or

• *wrong*

from this part of yourself,

provided

• *you have once*

wholeheartedly

decided for

the right course and

• *that the*

• *resistance and*

• *fight*

are over and done with.

If you

- become
 - very quiet and
 - relaxed and
- listen within,

you may find

that there is

another will [i.e., there is a will different from your outer conscious will]
coming from there [i.e., from within, from the solar plexus area],

or you may feel

the lack of it [i.e. lack of another will coming from within],
for that matter.

This will

or

its absence

often conflicts with

your

- outer or
- conscious
will.

39

Let us suppose

a person

- sincerely desires
to love a fellow-creature and
- desires to do so
because
he knows
that it is
right.

This desire

is in the person's
outer will.

After

- becoming quiet and
 - consulting the inner will,
- the person will find out that
- the inner will
- does not conform with
- the outer one.

	<p><u>To find out</u> <u>such a discrepancy [between the inner will and the outer conscious will]</u> <u>is extremely important,</u> <u>for how can you</u> <u>control yourself</u> <u>if you do not know</u> <u>what is within you?</u></p> <p><u>By controlling yourself,</u> <u>I certainly</u> <u>do not mean</u> <u>suppressing</u> <u>anything,</u> <u>but rather</u> <u>holding life's reins</u> <u>firmly</u> <u>in one's hands.</u></p> <p><u>How can you</u> <u>cure</u> <u>a wrong current</u> <u>if</u> <u>you do not discover it</u> <u>first?</u></p>
40	<p><u>If the</u> <u>inner will</u> <u>is right,</u> <u>it</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>exists very quietly</u> <u>from deep within</u><u>and yet</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>is conscious.</u></p>

Now, if people
desire

- to do their best,
- to fulfill their tasks
as well as they are able to or
- to overcome their faults
as well as possible
at the present stage,

their

inner will

should be directed toward that end,

- without pressure,
- without haste.

The outer will

does not press

but is relaxed.

A pressure

from the outer will

- must make a person tense and
- will only delay the process.

The inner will

must

want

- the right thing and
- the ultimate goal.

The outer will

must

- be serene and
- give leeway for life's
• hindrances and
• imperfections
that make it impossible
to proceed
 - speedily and
 - according to
a certain plan.

The
apparent
obstacles
should be met
voluntarily
as a means
of

- growing faster,

of

- learning to accept
that which cannot be altered
by the self,

of

- learning
 - humility, and
 - other positive attitudes.

Then [when the obstacles are thus met as a means of learning and growing]
the obstacles
will

- cease to be
obstacles and

will instead

- become
stepping stones
on the way to the goal.

The outer will
must be

- flexible;

it must be

- prepared for change.

Sometimes it [i.e., the outer will]
has to become
more active,
so you can act.

At other times it [i.e., the outer will]
has to become
more passive.

	<p><i><u>The inner will</u></i> <i><u>has to be active,</u></i> <i><u>but quietly,</u></i> <i><u>as befits</u></i> <i><u>the whole foundation</u></i> <i><u>of the person's life.</u></i></p> <p><i><u>To understand these words</u></i> <i><u>truly,</u></i> <i><u>meditate about them</u></i> <i><u>• deeply</u></i> <i><u>and perhaps</u></i> <i><u>• quite often.</u></i></p>
41	<p><i><u>And now we turn to your other questions.</u></i></p> <p><i><u>QUESTION:</u></i> <i><u>In the case of war,</u></i> <i><u>is the act of killing</u></i> <i><u>by a soldier</u></i> <i><u>contrary to</u></i> <i><u>divine law?</u></i></p>
42	<p><i><u>ANSWER:</u></i> <i><u>No,</u></i> <i><u>it is not.</u></i></p> <p><i><u>For as Jesus Christ has said,</u></i> <i><u>• render unto God</u></i> <i><u>what is God's and</u></i> <i><u>• render unto Caesar</u></i> <i><u>that which is due to him.</u></i></p> <p><i><u>If human beings on the earth sphere</u></i> <i><u>are still so far behind in development</u></i> <i><u>that war is necessary,</u></i> <i><u>then people have to fight</u></i> <i><u>for their country.</u></i></p>

Even if
all people
refused to fight,
evil would not be eliminated.

War may be
temporarily eliminated [if people refuse to fight],
but certainly
not evil [i.e., evil would not be eliminated if all people refuse to fight].

War
is only one
of many other
expressions of evil.

War
is not the cause [of evil]:
it [i.e., war]
is only an effect [of evil].

It would be the same
if a father
allowed a murderer to come into his house
and kill his wife and children
without defending them.

He must
defend
those he loves and
evil
has to be
fought against.

In your
present state of development,
unfortunately,
war often
is still your means
of fighting evil.

As spiritual development grows,
you will learn to
• go more to
the roots of the problems and
• fight against evil
in better ways.

As it stands now,
humanity
is often forced
to battle against
forces that abuse
• free will and
• divine law.

If people
take the power upon themselves
to prevent
other people
from living as God wants them to live, and
if your world
has not found
other means as yet
to eliminate this wrong,
then war
is the lesser evil.

43

You know
from the spiritual point of view
that
death
is not the worst thing that can happen.

Spiritual death
is the worst,
not
physical death.

Every person
is judged
individually,
and the judgment
comprises also
• the circumstances and
• the environment
in which he or she lives.

In the spirit world,
• the real motives
count more than
• the act,
and judgment
is not passed
• generally or
• collectively.

Everyone
is judged separately,
and if a man goes to war
simply to defend his country,
this will not count against him.

What counts
is a person's
inner
• attitudes,
• feelings,
• reactions,
• motives, and
• sense of responsibility.

44

QUESTION:
How does
• spiritual law
correspond with
• human law
in the case of
a death sentence
for a murderer?

45

ANSWER:

From the spiritual point of view,
capital punishment
is wrong.

That may sound like a contradiction
when compared with the last answer,
but it is not.

In the case of war,
it is a question of
defending
• a nation and
• humanity.

For humanity,
war is often
the last resort.

And even the people living in
the aggressor nation
are often convinced
that they are only
doing their duty;
they do not see
the whole picture.

They have to abide by
the laws of their society.

Otherwise
they might cause
more hardship,
not only
to themselves,
thereby becoming incapable of
fulfilling their lives,
but also
to others around them.

Again,
we cannot generalize,
for there may be instances
when it is the duty of a person
to violate
• a human law
in order
to fulfill
• a law of God.

But these instances are
• rare and
• only expected of
• strong and
• highly developed
beings
sent to earth
with a special mission.

In general,
this does not hold true.

46

Capital punishment
is not a necessity.

However,
war
often is [necessary]
in your present state of development.

You have
not yet
found the way
to eliminate
war.

	<p><u>The only way to do so</u> [i.e., <u>the only way to eliminate war</u>] <u>is when</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>resentment,</u>• <u>hate, and</u>• <u>fear</u> <p><u>do not live</u> <u>in the individual soul</u> <u>any more.</u></p> <p><u>That is</u> <u>the only basis</u> <u>for peace.</u></p> <p><u>But</u> <u>capital punishment</u> <u>is not necessary.</u></p>
47	<p><u>QUESTION:</u> <u>You said in my private session to bring up this question:</u> <u>What are the various aspects of love?</u></p>
48	<p><u>ANSWER:</u> <u>There are many</u> [aspects of love] <u>and I cannot attempt to enumerate</u> <u>all of them.</u></p> <p><u>I will just name a few:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>compassion,</u>• <u>pity,</u>• <u>respect,</u>• <u>admiration,</u>• <u>tenderness,</u>• <u>protectiveness,</u>• <u>helpfulness,</u>• <u>kindness,</u>• <u>truth.</u> <p><u>Yes, my friends,</u> <u>without truth,</u> <u>there can be no love!</u></p> <p><u>This</u> [list of aspects of love] <u>will suffice for the moment.</u></p>

49	<p>QUESTION: <u>A seeming unproductivity in your life; is that possibly</u> • <u>a stage,</u> <u>or</u> • <u>an indication that you are going in the wrong direction?</u></p>
50	<p>ANSWER: <u>It [i.e., a seeming unproductivity in your life] often is an indication that you are going in the wrong direction.</u></p> <p><u>It [i.e., a seeming unproductivity in your life] might also be that in certain circumstances</u> • <u>your will is counteracted by</u> • <u>unconscious conflicting desires,</u> <u>or by</u> • <u>fear.</u></p> <p><u>As long as this reality [i.e., the reality that your will is counteracted by unconscious conflicting desires or fear] is not brought into consciousness, you cannot handle it [i.e., cannot handle the cause for your unproductivity in life] properly.</u></p> <p><u>So the only course to take is the one I advocate [i.e., the course of self-awareness and self-purification].</u></p> <p><u>Of course, I am speaking generally.</u></p>

*I have no right
to give you the answer.*

*It [i.e., giving you the answer as to what of which you are unconscious is
causing your unproductivity]
would weaken you.*

*It will serve
your development
to find out for yourself [i.e., find out and make conscious what, of which you
are as yet unconscious, is causing your unproductivity].*

*And you can
quite easily do that
with the guidance
of my teachings.*

*Actually, the two possibilities you mentioned [i.e., that a time of unproductivity is
either a stage in life or an indication you are going in the wrong direction]
form a whole.*

*As long as
there is conflict within you
about a direction of your life,
you cannot be successful
in the field you have chosen.*

*You can only
be successful in anything
when
there is no conflict within you.*

*And spontaneously,
when you have
solved the conflict
between your
• conscious desires
and the
• unconscious ones,
you will find out
what the right direction is for you.*

*Then
your desires
may change.*

Find out
the real motives
behind
your present desires, and
find out
what holds you back [from fulfilling your desires].

Is it [i.e., is what holds you back from fulfilling your desires]

- **a fear or**
- **a desire**

to not pay the price
wholeheartedly –

which [i.e., the desire to not pay the price wholeheartedly]

- **is not necessarily bad, and**

it [i.e., the desire to not pay the price wholeheartedly]

- **may be good.**

For,

spiritually speaking,

the price is sometimes

too high [for fulfilling your desires].

51

At times
it is

- **the lower self**
that prevents success
in a certain direction, and

sometimes
it is

- **the higher self**
which recognizes
that this [desire for success in a particular direction]
is not good,
so it prevents you from achieving success.

	<p><u>You can find the answer</u> [<i>whether it is the lower self or higher self</i> <i>that is blocking your success in a given direction</i>] <u>by testing your motives</u> <u>without any</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>self-pampering or</u>• <u>sensitivity for your ego,</u> <p><u>with</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>utter and</u>• <u>shattering</u> <u>self-honesty.</u> <p><u>That</u> [<i>i.e., testing your motives with utter self-honesty</i>] <u>is the only procedure</u> <u>that I cannot advise strongly enough,</u> <u>even at the risk of boring you,</u> <u>my friends.</u></p>
52	<p><u>QUESTION:</u> <u>When you say</u> <u>an incarnation has taken place in a certain country,</u> <u>does that mean</u> <u>where a person was born</u> <u>even if he or she has only lived there for a very short time,</u> <u>or does it mean</u> <u>where one has spent most of one's life?</u></p>
53	<p><u>ANSWER:</u> <u>Most of one's life.</u></p> <p><u>It</u> [<i>i.e., the country of your incarnation</i>] <u>would be where</u> <u>your roots are;</u></p> <p><u>it</u> [<i>i.e., the country of your incarnation</i>] <u>would be</u> <u>the country</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>you consider your home,</u>• <u>where you have made</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>your connections,</u>• <u>your ties, and</u>• <u>your karmic links.</u>

54	<p>QUESTION: <u><i>This does not correspond to astrology?</i></u></p>
55	<p>ANSWER: <u><i>In astrology the situation is different because the astrological chart has to be figured according to the geographical part of the world.</i></u></p> <p><u><i>That is something different.</i></u></p>
56	<p>QUESTION: <i>A question in connection with</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u><i>war and</i></u>• <u><i>killing:</i></u> <p><u><i>How are we to regard a conscientious objector who</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u><i>sincerely follows the admonition not to kill and</i></u>• <u><i>considers the whole of the universe as his fellow-men rather than only the part he is called upon to defend?</i></u>
57	<p>ANSWER: <u><i>In the first place, a man is not defending a part of geography but [rather is defending] his immediate fellow-creatures.</i></u></p>

By refusing to go to war,
he may in the long run
cause more harm than good.

With this
I certainly do not wish to give the impression
that I advocate war.

By no means.

But war
cannot be eliminated
by refusing it.

This cancer [i.e., war]
• has to be treated in another way and
• slowly has to cease in all individuals.

A conscientious objector,
provided his motives are pure,
will be judged accordingly.

Then this [i.e., then being a conscientious objector]
will certainly not be held against him,
the same as killing in a war by a soldier
will not be held against him,
if
• his heart is
pure and
• his conviction
sincere.

But that does not alter
the fact
that his [i.e., the conscientious objector's]
judgment
is wrong.

	<p><u>More precisely, his [i.e., the conscientious objector's]</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>goal or</u>• <u>endeavor</u> <p><u>is a good one [i.e., the conscientious objector's goal to oust an evil</u> <u>is a good goal],</u></p> <p><u>just as the goal of a sincere soldier</u> <u>may be a good one,</u></p> <p><u>but he [i.e., but the conscientious objector]</u> <u>selects</u> <u>the wrong means</u> <u>to oust an evil.</u></p>
58	<p><u>Refusing to go to war</u> <u>could</u> <u>not</u> <u>be</u> <u>the right curative means</u> <u>against war.</u></p> <p><u>For</u> <u>as long as</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>there is hatred</u> <u>within the individual soul, and</u><u>as long as</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>there is blindness</u> <u>caused</u> <u>through lack of self-knowledge, and</u><u>as long as</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>people do not</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>purify themselves and</u>• <u>strive upward to God, and</u><u>as long as</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>people cannot</u> <u>refine their feelings,</u><p><u>there cannot</u> <u>be peace.</u></p><p><u>It is impossible.</u></p></p>

War
is an outpicturing
of what goes on
in so many
individual personalities.

It [i.e., war]
cannot be eliminated
by collective means alone,
well meant as they [i.e., as collective means alone] may be,
unless they [i.e., unless the collective means]
are supported by
the right spiritual attitudes [within each of the
individuals involved].

The cure [for the evils of war]
has to start
from within
by each individual.

Otherwise
you will only succeed
in eliminating
one effect [of the root cause of evil],
and another symptom
will come.

59

It is just the same with
disease,
my friends.

War
is nothing else
but a disease.

Your human
• history and
your human
• science
show you
how many ways
medicine has found
to eliminate disease.

Many diseases
that existed a relatively very short time ago
are not possible anymore.

But other diseases
have sprung up
that you cannot cure, and
new diseases
will continue to do so
until
a greater degree of purification
exists
on this earth,
no matter
what wonderful progress

- science and
- medicine

make.

As long as
the disease
is not cured
from within,

- war or
- other diseases

will exist.

If it is not war [that exists],
it will be something else
equally terrible.

60

In the case of
an individual,
it is possible
to make a mistake in judgment
and this in itself
is not held against you
as long as you

- are sincere and
- do not
 - delude yourself and
 - color your motives.

*You all
make mistakes
in judgment.*

*People have
very firm opinions
about any subject
from
• religion
to
• politics.*

*The moment these opinions are
• fanatical and
• inflexible,
people should test
their real inner motives
and then they may find out
that these opinions
are not as objective
as they may have thought at first.*

*If you dig
• deeply and
• honestly,
you will be surprised
how often you find a
• personal,
• emotional,
• subjective
reason
behind your convictions.*

61

QUESTION:
*What is
the opposite aspect
of vanity?*

62	<p><u>ANSWER:</u> <u>Love</u> <u>and humility [are opposite aspects of vanity].</u></p> <p><u>For</u> <u>if you are vain,</u> <u>you want to place your ego</u> <u>in the first row.</u></p> <p><u>You want</u> <u>admiration –</u> <u>I am not speaking personally now –</u> <u>and you want</u> <u>to be more than</u> <u>the other person.</u></p>
63	<p><u>So, my friends,</u> <u>God's blessing</u> <u>is given to you.</u></p> <p><u>God's love</u> <u>is streaming to you.</u></p> <p><u>May the words I have given you</u> <u>• bear fruit and</u> <u>• help you on your path and</u> <u>• strengthen you.</u></p> <p><u>Be in</u> <u>• peace,</u></p> <p><u>be in</u> <u>• love,</u></p> <p><u>be in</u> <u>• God!</u></p>

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