

# Pathwork Lecture 30: Self-Will, Pride, and Fear

1996 Edition, Original Given May 23, 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><b><u>Greetings</u></b> <b><u>in the Name of the Lord.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>I bring you blessings,</u></b> <b><u>my friends;</u></b> <b><u>blessed is this hour</u> [i.e., <u>blessed is this time</u> <u>we now spend together in this lecture</u>].</b></p>
04	<p><b><i>This lecture will not be entirely understandable for those who are not familiar with the preceding ones, since <u>this [lecture] is part of a series.</u></i></b></p> <p><b><i>For the benefit of those friends who are here for the first time, I should like to say again:</i></b></p> <p><b><u>It is so very difficult</u> <u>for some human beings</u> <u>to understand that such communication</u> [of a spirit manifesting <u>or speaking through a human being</u>] <u>is possible.</u></b></p>

by Eva Broch Pierrakos

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Edited by Judith and John Saly; Devotional Version posted 1/15/16

Those  
who do not understand  
the great things that are possible in God's creation  
readily use the often misunderstood word  
"the subconscious"  
to explain this phenomenon [i.e., the phenomenon of a spirit  
manifesting or speaking through a human being].

I beg you, my friends,  
divorce yourselves  
of the preconceived idea  

- that a spirit  
cannot manifest  
through a human being and
- that it is merely  
the medium's
  - subconscious, or
  - superconscious –  
whatever name you choose to give it –  
that you are listening to.

Communication  
with the spirit world  
of all spheres  

- has always been possible,
- is possible now, and
- always will be,  
provided that  
the necessary conditions are met  
by the human beings  
who wish to establish  
such communication.

That  
in some cases  
the communication  
may not be genuine  
does not mean  
that it is always so [i.e., does not mean that such communication is never genuine].

05

*I could give a more thorough explanation  
why it would be  
impossible  
for a human being,  
still in the cycle of incarnations,  
to bring out  
the knowledge I can put through  
simply by  
the medium  
going into a trance.*

*If a human being's unconscious  
were so penetrated with such knowledge  
that merely going into a trance  
would suffice  
to bring it to the surface,  
the discrepancy  
between  
• the trance state  
and  
• the normal state  
would not be so strong,  
my friends.*

*However,  
I do not want to take up more time on this subject.*

*I simply ask you,  
do not think that because  
the majority of the people around you  
believe this is all superstition,  
• that it cannot be possible [for me to speak through a medium], and  
• that they [i.e., that the majority of people around you] are absolutely right.*

*Do not believe that  
it is this human being's unconscious  
that talks to you tonight.*

*This is not so!*

06	<p><i>Now, my friends, <u>tonight's lecture</u> <u>will appear at first</u> <u>similar to the last one,</u> <u>in that</u> <u>it will resemble a</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• <u>very abstract and</u></i></li><li><i>• <u>philosophical</u> <u>lecture</u></i></li></ul> <p><i><u>that seems to have</u> <u>no bearing</u> <u>on your present existence.</u></i></p> <p><i><u>However,</u> <u>the opposite is true.</u></i></p> <p><i><u>When I continue,</u> <u>you will see</u> <u>that everything I say to you –</u> <u>no matter how far away it appears to be</u> <u>from your life –</u></i></p> <p><i><u>has an</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• <u>immediate and</u></i></li><li><i>• <u>direct</u></i></li></ul> <p><i><u>bearing on it [i.e., a direct bearing on your present life].</u></i></p>
07	<p><i><u>In the "Pistis Sophia,"</u> <u>on which my friend is lecturing,</u> <u>you have</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• <u>a plan or</u></i></li><li><i>• <u>a scheme, as you call it,</u></i></li></ul> <p><i><u>where</u> <u>spiritual spheres</u> <u>are designated</u> <u>in various gradations.</u></i></p> <p><i><u>Immediately below</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• <u>"The Ineffable," or</u></i></li><li><i>• <u>the House of God as we call it,</u></i></li></ul> <p><i><u>a sphere is shown</u> <u>with the name of</u> <u>"The Highest Lightworld."</u></i></p>

*In this Highest Lightworld  
an infinite number of  
lightforces  
exist  
in one vast reservoir or pool.*

*What are these lightforces?*

08

*The lightforces  
represent  
every  
• divine aspect in creation and  
every  
• good quality or  
• virtue  
you can possibly think of,  
each [divine aspect, good quality or virtue]  
as  
one particular  
lightforce and  
each [divine aspect, good quality or virtue]  
personified  
as a  
• spirit or  
• angel.*

*I mentioned in the last lecture  
that  
the twelve  
• active [forces] and  
the twelve  
• passive forces  
are also personified.*

It is the same with  
the lightforces [i.e., as the twelve active forces and twelve passive forces are personified, so also the lightforces are personified as spirits or angels];

representative

- spirits or
- angels

exist [for the lightforces]

as well as

- their [i.e., as well as the lightforces] emanations.

The emanation

of these forces [i.e., the emanation of these lightforces],  
condensed

in a spiritual form

of extremely fine texture,

creates

these beings [i.e., creates these spirits or angels],

and these beings [i.e., these spirits or angels]

emanate in turn

the respective lightforce.

The lightforces

gather

in a vast reservoir.

Just as

all is one

with God,

so it is

with these lightforces.

They [i.e., these lightforces]

constitute

one whole.

Yet  
each individual lightforce  
stands out  
as something  
• individual or  
• particular  
with  
its own  
different  
• color,  
• scent,  
• tone,  
and other qualities.

If I were to tell you  
how many kinds of perception exist  
in this high sphere,  
you would not believe it,  
for you have  
a very limited  
perceptive capacity.

The individualized forces [i.e., the individualized lightforces]  
are recognizable  
in this reservoir  
and yet  
they form  
one harmonious whole.

They [i.e., the individualized lightforces]  
emanate  
from  
• the sphere of the Highest Lightworld,  
where they are concentrated,  
into  
• all spheres below,  
in decreasing strength,  
of course.

09

Further along this plan  
you will find  
the "Higher or Middle Lightworld," [i.e., "below" the "Highest Lightworld"]  
where  
these lightforces  
are gathered again,  

- concentrated and
- condensed

into a slightly coarser texture  
that is still  
extremely fine  
compared to your standards.

From there [i.e., from the Higher or Middle Lightworld],  
they [i.e., the lightforces]  
are being sent forth  
into all other worlds.

But in this sphere, the Higher or Middle Lightworld,  

- spirit beings or
- personifications

of individual lightforces  
have  

- their organization,

or as it is referred to in the "Pistis Sophia,"- "the Orders."

- Each Order

represents  

- one of these lightforces,

headed by  

- the individualized spirit, and

serves  

- the entire Plan of Salvation

in different gradations  
as a sort of hierarchy.

• These Orders  
may also be designated as  
• "Choirs,"  
and are distinguished from one another  
by  
• special marks,  
• appearance of robes,  
and so on.

Each created being,  
including  
• each one of you,  
• each human being,  
belongs to  
one of these particular orders  
of the lightforces.

Your basic being  
is part of  
one of these  
• lightforces and  
• Orders.

In deep meditation,  
if a certain degree of development has been reached,  
you may  
• find out or  
• sense  
what your  
ground being  
is,  
which does not exclude, of course,  
other  
• virtues,  
• qualities, or  
• talents.

However,  
there is one  
• basic,  
• significant  
core element  
in each  
• being,  
• spirit, or  
• person.

Such a basic quality  
may be  
• courage,  
another  
• love and  
• kindness,  
and so on.

To have  
• courage  
does not mean that  
you do not possess  
• love or  
• the capacity to love.

Though  
the highest angel representatives  
of each force  
have  
all  
other qualities as well,

they have  
one  
• basic,  
• outstanding  
quality  
that  
• strengthens and  
• furnishes  
all other divine aspects [that they have]  
rather than  
• weakening or  
• excluding  
them [i.e., rather than weakening or excluding all other  
divine aspects that they have].

	<p><u>So it may be possible for you to find out the</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>ground tone or</u></li><li>• <u>marked quality of your being.</u></li></ul>
10	<p><u>Since you have heard the preceding series of lectures dealing with</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>the Creation and</u></li><li>• <u>the Fall,</u></li></ul> <p><u>you should understand by now that all beings in Creation are perfect in one particular way.</u></p> <p><u>Also,</u></p> <p><u>if the Fall had failed to take place,</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>the lightforce and</u></li><li>• <u>the divine power</u></li></ul> <p><u>that every being has been endowed with would have served the purpose of complementing the perfection in other ways as well, so as to become really godlike.</u></p> <p><u>Before this state has been reached, godlikeness can only be partial.</u></p> <p><u>Once the Plan of Salvation is fulfilled, further expansion toward perfection will continue.</u></p>

As it is now,  
the Orders,  
with all the many, many beings belonging to them,  
are  
particularly perfect  
in one way.

This applies  
even to the fallen spirits  
who have kept  
the ground perfection  
in its original  

- nature and
- talent

basically intact,  
though covered up  
by  

- the lower self and

by  

- all the layers of imperfection  
in varying degrees of density.

The process of  
uncovering  
the ground perfection  
is the path of  
purification.

This may give some of you  
good material for meditation.

At the present stage of your development  
you need to concentrate on  
finding out  
what your lower self  
really is.

**This [i.e., finding out what your lower self really is]**

**means you should**

• **find your faults and**

• **fully realize**

**their [i.e., your faults']**

• **existence,**

**their**

• **significance, and**

**their**

• **effect on**

• **you and**

• **your life.**

**It is also important**

**at a certain stage of your work**

**to get to know**

**the special individuality**

**of your higher self**

**so as**

• **to use it [i.e., to use the special individuality of your higher self]**

**for your**

**purification and**

• **to realize its [i.e., to realize the special individuality of your higher self's]**

**particular force.**

11

**In a previous lecture**

**I spoke about**

**the three basic**

**hindrances to perfection**

**which apply to everyone alike:**

• **self-will,**

• **pride, and**

• **fear.**

**Since the Fall**

**these three attributes [i.e., self-will, pride, and fear]**

**became**

**stronger**

**and stronger**

**in the measure to which the Fall progressed;**

**they [i.e., self-will, pride, and fear]**

**blur**

**your basic light.**

It is the purpose  
of the path of purification  
not only  
• to sense  
what your basic light is,  
but also  
• to realize that  
• self-will,  
• pride, and  
• fear  
exist in you  
and  
• to find out  
• to what degree [self-will, pride, and fear exist in you],  
• how they interact, and  
• how one is dependent upon the other.

For only  
with this understanding of yourself  
will you be able to overcome  
the dark walls  
that stand in the way  
between  
• you  
and  
• your basic light.

12

Offhand, my friends,  
you might ask:

How do  
• self-will,  
• pride, and  
• fear  
connect?

Why is one unthinkable  
without the other?  
For so it is, my friends.

If you have one [i.e., if you have either self-will, pride, or fear],  
you must have all three attributes [i.e., you must have self-will,  
pride, AND fear].

You may have one  
more  
• strongly  
than the other, or  
more  
• apparent or  
more  
• conscious  
than the other.

But it is  
impossible  
to possess  
only two,  
with the third  
entirely missing.

Sincerely  
endeavoring  
to walk  
this path of purification  
and understanding  
the role of  
• self-will,  
• pride, and  
• fear

is certainly essential  
on this path.

Do not believe  
that there is a human being alive  
who is  
entirely free of  
• self-will,  
• pride, and  
• fear.

Thus  
my words  
apply to everyone.

The only difference may be that  
• some may have more [self-will, pride, and fear],  
• some less [self-will, pride, and fear].

*I will demonstrate this to you  
in the following words.*

*They [i.e., the following words]  
will be of great importance  
for your self-understanding.*

13

*In the first place,  
we may again clarify  
that there is a distinct difference  
between  
• self-will  
and  
• free will.*

*To make sure that you understand it clearly in this connection,  
I will repeat that  
free will  
can be used  
• for good  
or  
• for bad;*

*this is important.*

*You cannot say it [i.e., you cannot say free will]  
serves  
only  
• good purposes,  
for, as just said,  
it [i.e., free will]  
can be used for  
• evil purposes  
as well.*

*However,  
it is certain that  
self-development  
cannot be attained  
without  
the full use of  
free will.*

*The will of God*  
*cannot be fulfilled*  
*unless*  
*you use*  
*your free will*  
*to accept it [i.e., to accept the will of God]*  
*of*

- *your own accord and*
- *your own choosing.*

*Free will*  
*is the greatest gift*  
*with which you have been endowed*  
*and without it [i.e., without free will]*  
*you could never attain*  
*a godlike status.*

*However,*  
*it [i.e., free will]*  
*has to be distinguished from*

- *self-will,*
- *the will of*
  - *the little self or*
  - *the little ego.*

*Self-will*  
*strives*  
*to get what it wants,*  
*regardless*

- *of the consequences and*
- *of the harm that may be done*
  - *to others*

*and therefore ultimately also [harm that may be done]*

- *to the self.*

*Only*  
*the little ego*  
*is too blind*  
*to understand this [i.e., too blind to understand that self-will of the little ego may*  
*ultimately bring harm to the self].*

Self-will

is a

- blind and
- immature

state,

too blind to realize  
that what it desires

- is against spiritual law and
  - must bring
    - hardship and
    - imprisonment
- to the self.

Take

- a spiritually underdeveloped person,
- for example,
- a criminal.

Such a person

will use self-will

in a very obvious way

to serve his

immediate seeming advantages,

disregarding

all laws –

- spiritual
- as well as
- human.

For

what seems advantageous to him,  
he likes to get.

14

*Now we are  
not discussing  
such easily recognizable cases [i.e., the cases of criminals].*

*The average human being  
does not commit*

- crimes or*
- antisocial acts,*

*partly because*

- he or she realizes  
that that is wrong –  
the sense of ethics  
even of an irreligious person  
is already developed enough  
to desist  
the desires of the lower self  
that may still have such wishes –*

*and partly because*

- he or she  
is simply too afraid  
to get into conflict with his surroundings.*

*However,  
we are  
not discussing  
the obvious outer actions  
of those who are  
driven by  
self-will,*

*for to  
none of you  
would this be applicable.*

*[Rather, here] We are focusing on  
the emotional currents  
of self-will  
within each one of you.*

*For  
each unpurified being  
desires,  
perhaps unconsciously,  
things that are*

- wrong and*
- things that are*
- against spiritual law.*

*This conflict*  
*between*  
• *the conscious desire*  
*and*  
• *the unconscious desire*  
*represents*  
*the greatest handicap*  
*in your development.*

*Therefore,*  
*it is of utmost importance*  
*that you muster the courage*  
• *to test your feelings,*  
• *to translate them*  
*into*  
• *clear and*  
• *concise*  
*words*  
*so as to realize,*

*"Here I have a desire,*  
*coming*  
*from my*  
• *little ego and*  
*from my*  
• *self-will,*  
*that does*  
*not correspond with*  
*the other part of my nature* [i.e., *does not correspond with the side of my*  
*nature that indeed wants to follow the will of God]*  
*that is just as real."*

15

*How does this* [*conflict between the desire of the self-will and the desire that part of the*  
*soul that indeed wants to follow the will of God]*  
*connect with fear?*

*If your self-will  
is strong –  
and it can be all the stronger if it is unconscious –  
you must  
constantly  
remain in fear  
that the desires of your self-will  
will not be gratified.*

*Thus,  
coupled with self-will  
you find fear.*

*For  
deep down in your heart,  
you do know  
that all the wishes of your self-will  
can never be fulfilled.*

*They [i.e., the wishes of your self-will]  
are, for the most part,  
• impossible and  
• unreasonable  
wishes.*

*In your own particular case,  
due to  
• your previous lives and  
• the hindrances you have put into your soul,  
what you wish  
cannot be fulfilled,  
at least  
not at this time,  
unless  
you discover the hindrances  
so as to eliminate them.*

16	<p><u>The currents within you</u> <u>run in different directions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>the self-will</u> <u>desires very strongly</u> <u>something that is</u><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>wrong,</u></li><li>• <u>impossible, or</u></li><li>• <u>contradictory to</u> <u>other currents within you,</u></li></ul></li><li>• <u>while at the same time</u> <u>you have</u> <u>the inner knowledge</u> <u>of your deeper being,</u> <u>the higher self</u> <u>that knows very well</u> <u>that these wishes [of the self-will or the little ego]</u> <u>are unfulfillable.</u></li></ul> <p><u>This knowledge [that these wishes of the self-will or</u> <u>little ego are unfulfillable]</u> <u>creates fear,</u> <u>since</u> <u>the self-will</u> <u>is still demanding</u> <u>its gratification.</u></p>
17	<p><u>If you meditate on these words,</u> <u>my friends,</u> <u>you will gain</u> <u>a great deal more insight</u> <u>into</u><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>your soul,</u></li></ul><u>into</u><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>your life, and</u></li></ul><u>into</u><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>your present situation.</u></li></ul><p><u>Again, it is</u> <u>not enough to listen [to these words] once</u> <u>to really understand them.</u></p></p>

If you

- meditate over them [i.e., meditate over these words] and
- apply them to yourself,

you will begin

searching within you

where you may have such wishes [of your self-will or little ego];

you will see

how the fear

comes automatically

from the desires

of the self-will.

You will thus

proceed a step further

on the ladder upward.

But

you must have the courage

to search in that direction [i.e., search in the direction of your self-will],

for only there

lies your liberation

from your own chains.

18

Now let us turn to  
pride.

What does pride mean?

It means

- that  
your ego  
is more important than  
the other person's [ego],
- that you  
desire advantages for yourself, and
- that you have  
vanity.

If you feel  
the humiliation of another person  
less than [you feel] your own [humiliation],  
you still have  
too much pride.

And who does  
not  
feel that way,  
my friends?

Who has truly  
the same reaction to  
• other people's humiliation  
as to  
• his own [humiliation]?

None of you!

If you yourself  
are humiliated,  
you are hurt;

if the other person  
is humiliated in the same way,  
you may feel sorry [for the other person],  
but the reaction  
is certainly entirely different [for these two situations of humiliation],  
no matter how much you try to tell yourself  
that this is not so.

Be honest  
with yourself [in this matter of your feelings about humiliation of another  
compared to your feelings about humiliation of yourself]  
and this honesty  
will surely do more for you  
than any self-deception.

Feelings change  
• indirectly and  
• not by force,  
• nor by simply trying to tell yourself  
that you feel in a way  
you do not!

**Therefore, such [honest] self-appraisal [regarding your pride as seen in feelings that arise in you when you are humiliated compared to feelings in you that arise when another is humiliated]**  
**will be**  
**the best means**  
**to change your feelings**  
**gradually**  
**also in this respect [i.e., in respect to your pride as it relates to your reaction to humiliation of yourself compared to your reaction to the humiliation of another].**

19

**I do**  
**not suggest**  
**that you go about it [i.e., do not go about changing your feelings in matters of the humiliation of another]**  
**by trying to**  
**muster up**  
**the same feelings**  
**of hurt vanity [that you would feel if you were humiliated]**  
**if another human being**  
**is humiliated [i.e., in situations when another human being is humiliated].**

**No.**

**Rather,**  
**learn**  
**not to make yourself**  
**so important,**  
**for**  
**your little**  

- pride and**
- ego**

**do not matter half as much**  
**as your feelings tell you.**

If you learn  
to be more detached  
about this vanity of yours,  
then  
and only then  
will you

- have the proper sense of proportion  
in comparing  
yourself to others and
- therefore have  
the same reactions for
  - others
  - as for
  - yourself.

That is what is meant by  
loving your brother  
as you love yourself.

As long as  
you feel differently  
for your brother  
than you do  
for yourself,  
you violate  
the spiritual law of

- justice,
- aside from the law of
- brotherhood.

For your reactions  
are surely  
not just [as long as you feel differently for your brother  
than you feel for yourself].

You may  
act  
in justice,  
that is true,  
and that [i.e., ACTING in justice]  
may be enough  
for some people,  
but perhaps [ACTING in justice is]  
not enough  
for you.

You know that  
• your actions and  
• even your thoughts  
are  
not sufficient  
to permit  
the pure emanation of justice  
to penetrate;

your lightforce  
cannot be liberated  
as long as  
• your feelings  
do not correspond to  
spiritual laws.

Thus,  
you are  
unjust  
in your feelings:

you put  
yourself  
on a higher plane than  
your brother.

The moment your  
• vanity and  
• pride  
assume such importance,  
you are again  
in constant fear,  
being afraid that  
the gratification of your pride  
will not be granted to you  
by the people around you.

*So you must*  
*give up the desire*  
*to put your own person*  
*on an elevated level*  
*above your fellow-creatures,*  
*in an emotional sense.*

*Only in that way*  
*will you*  
*be free*  
*of fear.*

20

*I do not have to go into detail*  
*to show you*  
*the connection*  
*between*  

- *self-will*

*and*  

- *pride.*

*That is too easy.*

*That you can do yourself.*

*You may use that [i.e., you may use the discernment of the connection between self-will and pride]*  
*as a meditation exercise.*

*However,*  
*do not do it [i.e., do not discern the connection between self-will and pride]*  

- *abstractly or*
- *impersonally;*

*try to apply it [i.e., try to apply the connection between self-will and pride]*  
*immediately*  
*to yourself;*

*try to see*  
*where you feel that way [i.e., where you feel a connection between self-will and pride].*

As far as the connection  
between  
• self-will  
and  
• fear,  
or  
between  
• pride  
and  
• fear,  
is concerned,  
I have shown it to you.

Each single day  
brings you  
a number of opportunities  
to observe your  
feelings  
in exactly this way.

21

Unfortunately,  
you bypass  
most of these opportunities for  
• self-knowledge and  
• purification.  
  
You let them [i.e., you let these opportunities for  
self-knowledge and purification]  
slip by.

If an  
unpleasant feeling  
comes up in you,  
you are  
very quick  
to put it aside.

*There will be easy excuses [for putting unpleasant feelings aside]:*

*the*  

- *faults and*
- *imperfections*  
*of other people*

*are supposed to be responsible for*  
*your own*  

- *disharmony and*

*your own*  

- *inner conflicts.*

*But there are times*  
*when you cannot find*  
*anyone to blame.*

*So you*  

- *just cover it up [i.e., you cover your unpleasant feeling up] and*
- *are quick with explanations [for your unpleasant feeling]:*
  - *you are just in a bad mood;*
  - *you do not know why you feel disturbed;*
  - *it is a difficult life in general;*
  - *perhaps it is even the weather.*

*No, my friends!*

*Whenever*  
*there is something bothering you,*  
*you will find the answer*  
*in the light*  
*of what I have just told you [regarding self-will, pride, and fear].*

*Looking at it [i.e., looking at what is bothering you]*  
*from this point of view [i.e., from the point of view of self-will, pride, and fear],*  
*you will*  
*do a great deal more*  
*for your*  

- *self-perfection and*

*for your*  

- *liberation,*  
*my friends.*

As long as  
you are caught within the snare of  
• self-will,  
• pride, and  
• fear,  
you cannot  
ever  
be happy.

It [i.e., being happy when you are caught in self-will, pride, and fear]  
is impossible.

You may  
fight all you want,  
you may  
do what you want  
on the  
outside.

But [by working on the outside with your thoughts and actions]  
you only remove  
the symptom;  
you do not  
cut out  
the cancer inside.

Think over  
these words;  
meditate on  
them.

For in them [i.e., for in these words]  
you have  
indeed  
• a treasure  
of helpful material and  
• a key  
to your problems.

22	<p><i>And now, my dear friends, I will turn to your questions and answer them to the best of my ability.</i></p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b> <u>Is not</u> <u>the will</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>to serve God and</i></li><li>• <i>to be a better human being</i></li></ul> <p><u>also selfish</u> <u>since this means that</u> <u>we become happy?</u></p>
23	<p><b>ANSWER:</b> <i>This is a good question you are asking, my child, and I will answer you.</i></p> <p><u>Though some people</u> <u>may enter the path</u> <u>with such a slightly impure motive</u> [i.e., <u>the slightly impure and selfish motive</u> <u>of entering the path only in order to become a happier person</u>], <u>it is still</u> <u>better to enter it</u> <u>than to stay away.</u></p> <p><u>By continuing on this path,</u> <u>the realization must come</u> <u>sooner or later</u> <u>that</u> <u>you</u> <u>are</u> <u>the next fellow</u> <u>and</u> <u>the next fellow</u> <u>is</u> <u>you.</u></p>

If  
you  
become happy,  
you  
must [inevitably]  
make other people  
happy.

And when I say  
happy,  
I do  
not mean  
the happiness  
that you believe would be yours  
if  
the desires of  
your self-will [i.e., desires of your separate little ego, including  
not only the desires of your self-will but also the desires  
of your pride and your little ego's desire for peace and  
absence of all fear]  
were fulfilled.

[Rather,]  
I am talking about  
the greater happiness  
that must be yours  
when you walk on this path  
of self-purification.

Once you have attained  
a certain height [of self-awareness and purification],  
your own happiness  
will no longer be the goal.

It [i.e., your happiness]  
will be  
a means to an end.

I advise you

- even before this realization [that your own happiness is no longer the goal of your work on this path]
- is yours and
- before you can feel this way [i.e., before you can you feel that your own happiness is no longer the goal of your work on this path],

to pray

not only for

- the understanding of what I am saying here.

Pray

also for

- strength and
- enlightenment and
- everything needed to follow this path,

not merely

- for your own sake

but so that

- you may become a source of
  - giving and
  - servicing.

In essence,

this means that

the ultimate purpose [of your following this path]

is

- not your own happiness,

but

- the service you

• give and

• are

to others.

But do not

deceive yourself;

realize

how far away

your emotions

still are

from your prayer.

	<p><b><u>By</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><u>seeing this discrepancy [between your actual emotions and your prayer]</u></b></li></ul> <p><b><u>and yet</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><u>praying for that end and</u></b></li><li>• <b><u>continuing the work of</u></b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><u>self-analysis and</u></b></li><li>• <b><u>self-honesty,</u></b></li></ul></li></ul> <p><b><u>one day</u></b> <b><u>you will</u></b> <b><u>feel</u></b> <b><u>as though you are</u></b> <b><u>one</u></b> <b><u>with every creature.</u></b></p>
25	<p><b><u>QUESTION:</u></b> <b><u>If our soul</u></b> <b><u>is taught</u></b> <b><u>during sleep,</u></b> <b><u>why do we</u></b> <b><u>not remember</u></b> <b><u>in an awakened state</u></b> <b><u>what our soul has learned?</u></b></p>
26	<p><b><u>ANSWER:</u></b> <b><u>There are</u></b> <b><u>many good reasons for that.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>In the first place,</u></b> <b><u>the reasons</u></b> <b><u>are the same that operate</u></b> <b><u>when</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><u>the memory</u></b> <b><u>of your previous incarnation</u></b> <b><u>is taken away</u></b> <b><u>from one incarnation to the other, or</u></b></li><li>• <b><u>the memory</u></b> <b><u>of the soul's existence in the spiritual worlds</u></b> <b><u>between incarnations</u></b> <b><u>is blotted out.</u></b></li></ul>

	<p><u><i>If knowledge of</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u><i>the existence of spirits,</i></u></li><li>• <u><i>the vast worlds that exist beyond your earth sphere and</i></u></li><li>• <u><i>the fact of reincarnation</i></u></li></ul> <p><u><i>were so easily accessible,</i></u> <u><i>you could not possibly</i></u> <u><i>fulfill your life.</i></u></p> <p><u><i>It [i.e., your life]</i></u> <u><i>would be too easy.</i></u></p>
27	<p><u><i>The highest treasure of knowledge</i></u> <u><i>must be</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u><i>fought for and</i></u></li><li>• <u><i>paid for</i></u></li></ul> <p><u><i>with the price of</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u><i>self-development and</i></u></li><li>• <u><i>victories over the lower self.</i></u></li></ul> <p><u><i>No matter</i></u> <u><i>how much you have read about the subject,</i></u> <u><i>you will</i></u> <u><i>never be convinced</i></u> <u><i>if</i></u> <u><i>you have not gained</i></u> <u><i>divine enlightenment.</i></u></p> <p><u><i>Divine enlightenment</i></u> <u><i>is something you have to</i></u> <u><i>work for.</i></u></p> <p><u><i>You have to</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u><i>pay the price [i.e., pay the price for divine enlightenment], and</i></u></li><li>• <u><i>deserve it [i.e., deserve divine enlightenment],</i></u></li></ul> <p><u><i>for it [i.e., for divine enlightenment]</i></u> <u><i>is the highest gift.</i></u></p>

*If knowledge of*

- *your past lives and*
- *the beyond*

*were just put into your lap*

*either by*

- *retention of memory*

*or [by]*

- *other means,*

*there would be*

- *no fight,*

*and therefore*

- *no development.*

*It may also*

*be a hindrance [to your development]*

*to know certain factors*

*of your previous lives.*

*As long as*

*you are not ripe for it [i.e., not ripe for certain knowledge] –*

*and this can only happen through development –*

*it may be harmful for you*

*to know certain things.*

28

*During your sleep,*

*when your spirit*

*is in the spirit world,*

*you often have insight*

- *into your previous incarnations,*
- *into the reasons for this present life, and*
- *about what you are supposed to accomplish.*

*Painful knowledge*

*might be connected*

*with it [i.e., with your previous incarnations, with reasons for this present life,*

*and with what you are supposed to accomplish in this life]*

*which you cannot use constructively*

*at this time;*

*it [i.e., this painful knowledge about previous incarnations or this current incarnation]*

*may*

- *depress you and*
- *hold you back from your development.*

God  
has given you the opportunity  
to start on a clean slate,  
without any burden.

According to  
your merits on this earth sphere,  
you will receive

- instruction,
- guidance, and
- advice

in the spirit world

when

- your body  
is  
asleep

and

- your spirit  
is  
free;

this knowledge [from the spirit world]

- remains in  
your unconscious and
- can affect you  
indirectly

when you are awake,

even though you do not know

why you

- react in a certain way,  
why you

- make certain decisions,  
and so on.

Consciously,

you have to fight  
for everything,

- for knowledge, as well as
- for spiritual development.

By fighting, of course,

I mean

fighting  
your lower self.

	<p><u>Also,</u> <u>if someone is already developed to a certain extent,</u> <u>during the hours of sleep</u> <u>he or she</u> <u>may fulfill tasks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>with other spirits,</u> <u>who are out of the body, or</u></li><li>• <u>with other human beings</u> <u>who are also sleeping.</u></li></ul> <p><u>This helps</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>others</u></li></ul> <p><u>and therefore [helps]</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>the entire Plan of Salvation.</u></li></ul> <p><u>But there</u> <u>must not be</u> <u>clear remembering</u> <u>unless</u> <u>the circumstances are exceptional.</u></p> <p><u>This may happen too.</u></p>
29	<p><u>QUESTION:</u> <u>In what form</u> <u>do spirits</u> <u>who are still undeveloped</u> <u>see higher spirits?</u></p>
30	<p><u>ANSWER:</u> <u>When</u> <u>undeveloped spirits</u> <u>come into contact with</u> <u>higher spirits,</u> <u>they [i.e., undeveloped spirits]</u> <u>do not see them [i.e., do not see higher spirits]</u> <u>as</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>angels or</u></li><li>• <u>light creatures.</u></li></ul> <p><u>That would be much too easy.</u></p>

Again

the same law [i.e., the law that applies to knowledge from dreams  
and about previous incarnations]  
holds true here.

If higher spirits  
go into

lower spheres,  
which they do

- at certain intervals regularly and
- according to plan,

they [i.e., the higher spirits]

- change their fluids and
- the light does not show.

For it would be

much too easy

for these creatures [i.e., for these undeveloped spirits in the lower spheres]  
to accept

God's word

because

an obvious angel  
has spoken it.

How many of you, for instance,  
say

- "If I could  
see God, or
- if I could  
see an angel,  
I would believe."

But

you do

not listen

to the words I speak.

It is the same

with these spirits [i.e., the undeveloped spirits in the lower spheres].

There is not an iota of difference.

They [i.e., the undeveloped spirits in the lower spheres]

have

- to learn,

just as you

have

- to learn and
- to distinguish

between

right

and

wrong,

between

truth

and

untruth

- by

truth's

own merit and

- not because

the person [imparting knowledge]

seems to be an authority

and therefore easy to believe.

How many people

accept something

said by a respected authority

and yet

reject the very same words

if spoken by someone whom they look down on!

That [i.e., accepting something only if said by a respected authority]

does not mean

they are developed.

Development means

- independence,
- the ability to select

truth

from

- untruth.

Therefore  
the spirits in the lower spheres  
do not see the angels  
as they really are.

Higher spirits  
appear to them [i.e., appear to the spirits in the lower spheres]  
just like one of their own kind [i.e. like spirits appear in the lower spheres]  
and they speak to them in that way.

It is then left up to  
the spirits themselves [i.e., the spirits in the lower spheres themselves]  
to decide whether  
they want to believe what is communicated to them  
or not.

They must accept what they hear  
for its own value,  
and therefore  
it is good  
that they believe these ideas  
come to them  
from someone on their own level [rather than from  
someone of a higher level].

31

The same holds true  
for humanity;  
many spirits,  
in varying degrees of development,  
are incarnated on this earth;  
yet  

- human shape or
- outer appearance

does not give an indication  
of the entity's development.

This is the only possible way  
for you to become  
truly  

- free and
- independent.

However,  
there are certain exceptions in this respect too.

Not that there is  
ever  
an exception  
to the law of the necessity of  
independent  
• selection and  
• recognition,  
but at certain times  
light  
penetrates  
to some degree  
into the world of darkness.

Then  
the angels of God  
show themselves.

There are good reasons for that too,  
but it does  
not happen  
for the purpose of  
teaching the truth  
to creatures in the lower spheres.

Be blessed.

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