

Pathwork on
Taking Responsibility for Developing Our Gifts

This quote from Pathwork Lecture 78 *Question and Answers* notes that our gifts and talents lie as dormant potentials until we take responsibility for developing them and for putting them into service. It encourages us to overcome any laziness that may cause us to resist this needed effort.

36	<p>QUESTION: What is the true definition of ability in a human being?</p> <p>ANSWER: Above all, it is the knowledge of one's own potentials and limitations. Where the clear understanding of one's own limitations is lacking, ability must be lacking. So we always come back to the same. Self-knowledge, a true and realistic self-evaluation, is the only thing that can bring forth the maximum ability, creativity and healthy strength. The limitation does not only have to be recognized concerning a possible lack of talent that one wants but cannot have due to certain factors. The limitation has to be recognized also concerning a potential one does not wish to go to the trouble of building up into ability, into accomplishment. In other words, a dormant talent may indeed exist, but the person may wish its perfected state without the labor and effort of cultivating it. Insight into one's hidden desires and their reasons will bring the talent forth if it actually exists. If so, if it is supposed to be accomplished, frustration accrues because the person does not realize that he or she is not really doing the work required to build it up. With such honest self-appraisal, proper decisions must finally result, and lead to ability, creativity and healthy strength.</p>
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