

## The Purpose of Life: Manifesting Our Divine Eternal Kernel

This quote from Pathwork Lecture 165 *Evolutionary Phases in the Relationship Between the Realms of Feelings, Reason, and Will*, gives a succinct **purpose for the Spiritual Life**: Self-Realization – the manifesting of our real self, the divine eternal kernel that is our Essence.

Self-realization is an organic unfolding. It is *not* something that the ego can *directly* manifest through its faculties of reason and will. This self-realization comes rather only *indirectly* by the ego's choosing activities that nurture this unfoldment (Stage 2 Pathwork – by Grace, the spiritual growth in consciousness that comes upon us via our spiritual practices in life – via transformation) and by finding, accepting, and resolving lower self aspects that stand in the way of the Divine Kernel's unfolding (Stage 1 Pathwork – the psychological work of purification).

10	<p>All of my friends should, once again, consider seriously what this path is. Why are they involved in it? What is its function? Too often vagueness or confusion about the Pathwork's purpose creates unnecessary difficulties and misunderstandings. The function of this path is not to remove a bothersome symptom in a person's life. This is not a treatment of sickness. Nor is the path simply a way of becoming a better person, of developing spiritually. All this happens, of course. But it must be fully understood by all of you, no matter how far you decide to follow it, that the aim of the path is the total realization of the divine kernel. And this is not merely a theory. It is indeed possible, right here and right now.</p>
11	<p>Let us restate the meaning of self-realization. I shall use new words to reach you in a more dynamic way. Self-realization means to bring forth, as a living reality, the kernel of your spiritual being -- the kernel of self that is eternal. This is, I repeat, not a religious concept for a faraway future. It is immediately available. How can some of the results or manifestations be best described? I might say that a new area is awakened, located in the center of your body, around the solar plexus. From this area new life flows -- new feelings, a new way of perceiving and responding, a new way of knowing life, people, values, and events. Everything is endowed with a new luminosity and a deeper meaningfulness. Beliefs change, or they feel different. The scope of an opinion, conviction, or sensation widens and deepens. Everything becomes fuller. The self becomes at once intensely personal and universal. What appeared to be contradictions suddenly unify without a breach of logic. Fear vanishes, and life becomes unending pleasure just because its opposite is no longer feared. The opposite of the desired state of fulfillment and happiness is not avoided, but its illusory nature is unmasked by going through it. Thus there is nothing to fear. The creative power of the self is available at all times, because of the personality's freedom from fear.</p>
12	<p>These words are inadequate to describe the state called self-realization. But they may give you a glimmer of what is to come; perhaps you have begun to experience this state to a small degree once in a while. It comes gradually, and yet, at times, suddenly. Only when all surface layers and all contradictory trends of consciousness have unified with the innermost being can this state become a steady condition of the soul.</p>