

Pathwork on  
**Role of Death in Growth**

This quote from Pathwork Lecture 165 *Evolutionary Phases in the Relationship Between the Realms of Feelings, Reason, and Will*, describes the role of death in growth. An unhealthy organism (individual, couplehood, or group/organization) can tolerate faults and misalignment with Source and survive (though not thrive) in this life. On the other hand a healthy organism cannot tolerate such misalignment, and the organism (individual, couplehood, or group) will choose death rather than life if the psyche of the organism chooses not to deal with and correct its misalignment with its Essence. I find this to be an amazing teaching to contemplate for my own life (what illusions, fears of truth and love, and life-defeating beliefs and attitudes in me need to die so that I can thrive?). Ditto for organisms of which I am a part – my couplehood with Pat and for the Pathwork organizations in which I am involved.

06	When the overall organism tends toward growth, purification and union, those discordant layers, the aspects that resist union, gradually die off. Resisting growth is not necessarily a theoretical concept, but may nevertheless occur in practice, since what is really necessary for growth may not be compatible with a hopeful illusion. Thus, when aspects of the organism stem against the necessary stages of growth, the self-selective process of dying off, or exclusion, sets in to protect the whole organism from being affected by life-defeating attitudes so it can continue to grow. Physical death results from the same principle. Physical matter dies off only because underlying life-defeating attitudes fear truth and love. These fears induce decay, which finally manifests outwardly.
07	Hence, what first appears as destruction is, when viewed with deeper insight, nothing but the destruction of destructiveness. Even though it may be painful to endure at the moment, such death is often the most life-preserving event, borne of the organism's overall health. For the unhealthy organism could tolerate the life-defeating attitudes much longer. Death is overcome when the whole organism no longer resists life, truth, and love, so that it no longer needs to secrete deadening stuff. This principle is very important to comprehend in all questions of life -- both individual and collective.