

Pathwork Lecture 246: Tradition: Its Divine And Distorted Aspects

1996 Edition, Original Given December 14, 1977

This Pathwork lecture is rendered in an **expanded poetic format**, what I call a **Devotional Format** 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 Format 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 format 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, mostly underlined, but never bolded.]

To learn more of my Devotional Format 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><i><u>My beloved friends,</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i><u>you are</u></i> <i><u>in the presence of</u></i> <i><u>Christ,</u></i> <p><i><u>He is here,</u></i> <i><u>always</u></i> <i><u>with you;</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i><u>you have</u></i> <i><u>God's blessings.</u></i> <p><i><u>Reach out</u></i> <i><u>so that you can</u></i> <i><u>be helped</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i><u>where you</u></i> <i><u>need it most,</u></i>• <i><u>when you are in</u></i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i><u>disturbance or</u></i>• <i><u>disharmony</u></i> <i><u>of any nature.</u></i>

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Edited by Judith and John Saly; Devotional Format Posted 2/14/17

04

Many of you
find yourselves
in turmoil
because
you feel that I
now
"bring in"
Jesus Christ.

This [i.e., That I am just now "bringing in" Jesus Christ]
is an error
in your perception;

I have
always
talked about His existence,
from the very beginning
of my task with you.

There was a period
in which we had to
emphasize
your inner processes;

you had to learn
the subtleties of
the unconscious processes
in order to explore yourselves
in depth.

Only through this exploration
can

- a belief in God and
- a commitment to
all His aspects
become meaningful.

Only through self-exploration
can you find out
God's truth.

Otherwise [i.e., Without self-exploration]
you are

- superimposing
a belief,
- covering up
whatever unconscious material
there may exist in you
that you need to deal with.

05

I am
a spirit of truth,
my friends, and

I could
never,
I would
not,
lead you astray.

If I speak of
Jesus Christ's reality,
which is an aspect of
God's reality,

it is so
only because
you no longer need to erect barriers
of any sort.

Barriers
can take many forms.

We have worked with
barriers of a subtle nature,
for many years.

All I am asking you now
is to open yourselves up
to new

- considerations and
- possibilities;

I am
not asking you
to accept my words
blindly.

If my words
are not truth,
you should
not accept them.

But if they [i.e., But if my words]
are [truth],
you must
not barricade yourselves
against them.

For it is necessary
to

- know,

to

- grasp,

to

- experience
whatever truth exists
so that you can
 - attain your
full potential and
 - be who you
ultimately are.

06

The topic of this lecture
is the meaning
of tradition.

Let us first examine
what tradition means
in its

- best sense,

and then

what it means
when it is

- distorted.

Many human beings
have distinct images
about tradition.

These images
trigger off
conditioned reflex reactions

- as soon as
this term [i.e., the term “tradition”]
is mentioned or
- when human conditions
reflect adherence to tradition
either in its
 - realor in its
 - distorted
sense.

07

Tradition
in its real sense
means
the continuation of faith
in eternal

- truths and
- values.

	<p><u>Once</u> <u>a cosmic reality</u> <u>has been</u> • <u>discovered and</u> <u>has been</u> • <u>expressed</u> <u>in human life,</u> <u>those who experience</u> <u>the inevitable</u> • <u>beauty,</u> • <u>goodness and</u> • <u>rightness</u> <u>of it [i.e., of this newly discovered cosmic reality],</u> <u>logically</u> <u>attempt to continue</u> <u>its expression.</u></p> <p><u>Please keep in mind that</u> • <u>all true values,</u> • <u>values of whatever nature,</u> <u>must have been</u> <u>at one point in time</u> <u>a breakthrough</u> <u>from the world of spirit.</u></p>
08	<p><u>To keep these values alive,</u> <u>it is necessary</u> <u>to</u> • <u>feel and</u> • <u>inwardly experience</u> <u>the particular truth in question.</u></p> <p><u>Ritual celebrations</u> <u>can do this [i.e., can keep these values alive by giving participants in</u> <u>the ritual celebrations the feelings and inward</u> <u>experiences of the particular truth in question],</u> <u>but they [i.e., but ritual celebrations]</u> <u>are not necessarily</u> <u>a guarantee</u> <u>for the continuous aliveness</u> <u>of a specific truth.</u></p>

A ritual
can be
an empty gesture.

True tradition
is therefore

- a continuous re-experiencing
of the original breakthrough
from
 - inner worlds or
 - other realities,
- a re-experiencing today
of a dynamic aliveness,
no matter how long ago
the tradition may have been formed.

Tradition,

in its best sense,

means

adherence

- to eternal values or
- to certain aspects of these values,
depending on
which particular tradition
we have in mind.

09

Tradition
in its distorted sense
means

- a dead weight,
- a meaningless carryover.

This [i.e., a distorted tradition today being a dead weight or a meaningless
carryover from the past]

does not necessarily mean
that a specific tradition
did not contain
eternal

- values and
- truths
at the time it came forth.

	<p><u><i>But at the present time</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u><i>its true meaning</i></u> <u><i>may be</i></u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u><i>disregarded or</i></u>• <u><i>forgotten,</i></u>• <u><i>the rituals involved</i></u> <u><i>may be mechanically repeated</i></u> <u><i>and thus</i></u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u><i>the tradition has been</i></u> <u><i>deadened;</i></u>• <u><i>its reality has become</i></u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u><i>flattened</i></u>• <u><i>or even</i></u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u><i>totally obliterated.</i></u>
10	<p><u><i>Tradition</i></u> <u><i>in its distorted sense</i></u> <u><i>might involve</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u><i>a meaningful truth,</i></u>• <u><i>an experience,</i></u>• <u><i>a custom</i></u> <u><i>that was valid</i></u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u><i>at a certain time in history,</i></u>• <u><i>under certain conditions and</i></u>• <u><i>in specific circumstances.</i></u> <p><u><i>Continuing</i></u> <u><i>these same</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u><i>acts or</i></u>• <u><i>attitudes or</i></u>• <u><i>customs</i></u> <u><i>under</i></u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u><i>completely different circumstances,</i></u>• <u><i>under</i></u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u><i>conditions where</i></u> <u><i>the meaning of this tradition</i></u> <u><i>has been lost</i></u> <p><u><i>is therefore</i></u> <u><i>a process of</i></u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u><i>death,</i></u><u><i>rather than of</i></u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u><i>life.</i></u></p>

- Carrying over a tradition
in an unthinking attitude,
 - adhering to a blind habit
 - that does not make sense,
 - that fails to elucidate
through
 - acts or
 - attitudes
- the divine truth
contained in the tradition in question,
- signifies death.

Aliveness
always means

- a dynamic thinking process,
- an awareness –

not

- blind repetition.

11

So you see, my friends,

- tradition can be
 - an intensely meaningful
reality, or
- it [i.e., or tradition] can be
 - a
 - meaningless,
 - dead

repetition of the past
that no longer
has any application
in the now.

12

Human responses
to tradition
are deeply embedded in the personality.

All aspects of society
are influenced by
each individual's attitude
to tradition;

- whether a person
is aware of
a tradition's real meaning
as applicable today

or

- whether he or she
is in distortion
and
is merely repeating an act
out of habit,

makes a great deal of difference.

- Politics
and
• religion,
to name but a few
aspects of life,

- are very clearly
influenced by
and also
• reflect

a specific society's
attitude to tradition.

13

There are those
who put so much value on tradition
that all common sense
goes overboard
when a tradition is at stake.

They believe that
only what conforms
to
• tradition,
to
• the past,
is of any value.

They rigidly reject
any change,
which is of course
a most foolish attitude,
because
the very tradition
they adhere to
now
came into being at one time
through change.

Without
continuous change,
• alive
• unchanging
verities
cannot be lived.

True tradition
must therefore
always be coupled
with change.

	<p><u><i>The healthy balance of the soul of the earth can be</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u><i>attained and</i></u>• <u><i>maintained</i></u> <p><u><i>when</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u><i>tradition</i></u> <p><u><i>and</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u><i>change</i></u> <p><u><i>interphase</i></u> <u><i>in a harmonious dance.</i></u></p>
14	<p><u><i>Those</i></u> <u><i>who follow tradition</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u><i>blindly and</i></u>• <u><i>meaninglessly</i></u> <p><u><i>create</i></u> <u><i>extreme orthodoxies</i></u></p> <p><u><i>in</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u><i>religion and</i></u>• <u><i>politics –</i></u> <p><u><i>and of course</i></u> <u><i>within</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u><i>the human soul.</i></u> <p><u><i>Such orthodoxy</i></u> <u><i>imposes on society</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u><i>a heaviness and</i></u>• <u><i>a resistance to change.</i></u> <p><u><i>It [i.e., Such orthodoxy with its imposed resistance to change]</i></u> <u><i>springs</i></u> <u><i>from the misunderstood</i></u> <u><i>message of the soul</i></u> <u><i>to preserve</i></u> <u><i>the</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u><i>truths,</i></u> <p><u><i>the</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u><i>beauty, and</i></u> <p><u><i>the</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u><i>values</i></u> <p><u><i>that were given</i></u> <u><i>in the past.</i></u></p>

But it is forgotten
that these truths [that were given in the past]
came
as a result of
• the soul's struggle
to find
divine meaning and
because of
• the personality's willingness
to overcome
the fear of change.

15

There are also those
who
rebel against
all
tradition;

they rebel against
its [i.e., against tradition's]
• meaningless,
• dead
manifestation,

just as much as against
its [i.e., against tradition's]
• real,
• alive
manifestation.

This blind attitude [of those who rebel against both dead and alive tradition]
is a result of the belief
that
• only new findings
can be of value,
that
• all that has existed in the past
must be
• inferior or
• invalid.

	<p><u>It [i.e., This blind attitude by those who rebel against all tradition]</u> <u>overlooks the fact</u> <u>that eternal values</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>have always existed and</u>• <u>will always exist and</u>• <u>can always</u> <p><u>break through to consciousness,</u> <u>provided</u> <u>certain prerequisites</u> <u>are being fulfilled.</u></p>
16	<p><u>The new-age person</u> <u>will</u> <u>neither</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>blindly worship tradition,</u> <p><u>nor</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>blindly rebel against it [rebel against tradition].</u> <p><u>He or she</u> <u>will take</u> <u>every specific tradition,</u> <u>as it becomes</u> <u>an issue in his life, and</u> <u>will examine it [i.e., examine this specific tradition]</u> <u>with</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>intelligence and</u>• <u>self-honesty.</u> <p><u>Do you have</u> <u>a personal stake</u> <u>in maintaining</u> <u>this or that tradition?</u></p> <p><u>Does living this tradition</u> <u>make sense in your life</u> <u>now?</u></p> <p><u>What does it [i.e., What does this tradition]</u> <u>mean to you, and</u> <u>why are you</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>adhering to it or</u>• <u>rejecting it?</u>

When you examine life's issues

in that way [i.e., by honestly looking at your motivations for adhering to or rejecting a specific tradition that has become an issue in your life],
you will find

the most constructive way

in which you can

- continue your traditions and
- make them new
most meaningfully.

If you have

the right attitude,

you will

never rebel

when an old tradition

• is discontinued, or
when it [i.e., or when an old tradition]

• is replaced by
new

- customs,
- rituals and
- celebrations.

Ask yourself if

the old tradition

- has been superseded by
- truths and
- values

that are

more meaningful

for you

today

- or not.

With this attitude [*toward evaluating an old tradition's meaningfulness for you today, or determining that it has been superseded by truths and values that are more meaningful for you today*]

you will live
in a
dynamic now;

you will be able to
• value what deserves to be valued
from the past,

but

you will also be able to
• let go of the past
and thus
• create
• a new future,
rather than
• a dead repetition of the past.

17

On this earth sphere
you talk about
• old
and
• new.

Often these words [*“old” and “new”*]
carry
• positive
and
• negative
connotations.

It can be either way.

Some people think of

- the old

as

- all good,
- all benign,
- unthreatening and
- full of values,

while anything

- new

they regard as

- threatening,
- disrupting,
- wrong,
- bad.

These people are, of course,
the traditionalists.

There are also those who see

- anything old

as

- outdated,
- undesirable and
- bad,

while

- anything new

is

- totally desirable and
- good.

I hardly need to point out that

here again

you are face to face

with an apparent duality

which you can transcend

when you see the

- positive

and

- negative

possibilities

in both extremes [i.e., the duality that all old is all good while all new is all bad at one extreme, and all new is all good while all old is all bad at the other extreme].

On a level of
deeper spiritual reality,
neither of these terms [i.e., neither “old” nor “new”]
makes any sense.

There is
• neither old
• nor new,
and
there is
• both [old and new].

Everything
already
• exists
and
always
• has existed,
and
always
• will exist.

What is
new on earth
is that a certain aspect of
ultimate reality
“vibrates through” [from the world of what you may call spirit]
into
the world of matter.

You must remember that
the level of matter
is a condensation
of finer vibratory forms.

These [finer vibratory] forms
exist already
in what you may call
spirit.

All life
• pulsates,
• expands and
• contracts.

Matter
comes into existence
by spiritual forms
pulsating "outwardly."

When the contraction occurs,
• life withdraws
and
• matter disintegrates.

Although I have spoken about this before,
you often
• forget these ideas and
• do not think of your life
in these terms.

The more
you can remind yourself
of this truth and
the more
you feel it [i.e., feel this truth that matter comes into existence by spiritual
forms pulsating "outwardly" and that when the contraction
occurs, life withdraws and matter disintegrates]
in your
• life and
in your
• ideas,
the closer
you will come
to
being in truth.

19

The forms
that exist in the world of finer vibrations
do not only manifest
as objects,
although objects
certainly bear witness to
the existence of these forms.

There is
no object on earth
that does not have its origin
in spirit,
where it [i.e., where the object manifesting on earth]
is perhaps "used"
in a different way,
because of
the different conditions
that exist in the world of spirit.

Its [i.e., this earth-object's]
essence
is "pulsated through"
into matter,
and there [i.e., there in matter on the earth plane]
it [i.e., this earth-object whose origin is in spirit]
recreates
its original form [i.e., the form that it had in spirit]
in a

- modified way,

in a

- symbolic way,

in an

- adjusted way

that fits the circumstances
on this level of reality [i.e., on this level of reality
of the earth plane].

20

Aside from

- objects

we are of course
dealing with

- concepts,
- abstract ideas,
- values,
- truths,
- laws,

and so on.

*It is often hard for a human being
to imagine
that
an idea
existed in finer vibratory form
before it reached
his or her consciousness.*

The many
• *abstract concepts and*
• *laws*
*I have discussed with you
throughout the years of our work*
are
• *realities*
in our sphere of life.

*Like objects,
concepts
often differ
in*
• *application and*
• *meaning*
*in the two spheres [i.e., in our sphere and your earth-sphere],
because
on your [earth] plane
you only perceive*
• *very simplified and*
• *cruder*
*manifestations
of these*
• *ideas,*
• *concepts and*
• *laws.*

21

To return to the concept of tradition:

Tradition
in our world
describes
merely an aspect
of a certain specific reality.

It [i.e., Tradition]
refers to
the reality
of valuing
eternal truth
in its

- manifold manifestations,

or perhaps
in a

- certain specific manifestation.

As this attitude [i.e., this attitude of valuing eternal truth]
vibrates through
into your dimension of reality,
it becomes

- diminished,
- modified and
- separated from

its
entire
meaning.

This [diminishment, modification, and separation from its entire meaning]
is inevitable,
since your reality
is a much-diminished one
in which
a unity
is split into
a duality,
whereby
much of its original meaning
is

- lost or
- distorted.

*It is always possible
for you to*
• *recapture the original meaning*
and thus
• *open up to a further influx
of various levels*
which together
will depict
a more complete reality.

Such openings
• *occur through*
specific
• *mental attitudes and*
• *activities, and*
• *are the result of*
the struggle
to see beyond
the limited confines of your world.

22

*The other aspect –
counter-tradition –
also exists*
• *in our world,*
• *in our dimension of reality*
that is always ready
• *to break into*
your reality
and thus
• *to expand*
your reality.

It [i.e., This counter-tradition]
exists as
the constant movement
toward
• *renewing and*
• *giving new life to*
the eternal
• *truths and*
• *laws.*

So
• the old
and
• the new
exist
in the timeless reality
of eternal now –
not as
• old
and
• new
timewise,
but as
• concepts or
• attitudes
with a specific
• meaning and
• expression
behind them.

23

Let us consider
the movement of
• your path,
• this particular path
I first brought to you
a few years ago.

When you look back,
you will see
a spiral movement,
which is the movement
of the great life currents.

You see
• certain repetitions
in the spirals,
• phases re-encountered
on deeper levels
with new understanding.

These aspects [that are re-encountered on deeper levels with new understanding
on subsequent repetitions in the spirals]

appeared as

new

when you first gained them
in the previous curve.

Thus

the old truth,

[that was] learned in the previous curve,
makes new sense [on subsequent curves]
because of

the additional material

you have learned on the way [i.e., material you have
learned since the time you encountered the original
truth in the previous curve on the spiral].

What was once

- an entirely new truth,
- a revelation,

later

becomes renewed
in repetition –

an old truth

under new light.

But the renewal

could take place

only because
other truths –

- new

and

- old –

have been discovered
along the way.

They [i.e., Truths] are

new

in the sense that they have been
unknown by the individual;

they are

old

in the sense that
they existed

before

they were known to the individual.

24

The same spiral movement
exists in
the personal
• development and
• growth
process
of each individual.

You cannot fail to see it [i.e., fail to see the same spiral movement in the personal
development and growth process of each individual]
if you observe it
• clearly,
• with full consciousness.

The material of the lectures,
which is
the groundwork
of the rhythm you follow,
lays the plan
for this [spiral] movement [in the process of personal development and
growth of each individual]
that is
very organically adapted
to a much greater reality
than what you can perceive.

Every expansion
you have ever experienced on this path –
and there were quite a few –
always meant
• the incorporation of
• hitherto unknown –
• new to you –
aspects of inner reality
and therefore
• a new approach
to your work.

The organic movement [i.e., the organic spiral movement in the personal development and growth of each individual]

brought about
seemingly miraculous changes of personality
in the best sense;

it brought
• new fulfillment and
• the awakening
of previously dormant potentials.

A new abundance
made itself
more
and more
noticeable,
on all levels,
• in many individuals and
• in your path
• as a whole,
• as an entity.

25

Yet there was also
great resistance
to
• expansion of thinking,
to
• each innovation,
• each new
• approach,
• method, or
• spiritual concept
I gave you.

Each new
• approach or
• expansion of seeing –
witnessing the world
in a new light –
has always created
a sense of threat.

You wish to hold on to
the old familiar approach
which is known to you,
to keep
the confines of

- thinking and
- perceiving
 - untouched,
 - unexpanded.

Here [i.e., By resisting to the new, feeling the new to be a threat, and holding on
to the old familiar approaches to life]
you become
a traditionalist.

In the distortion
of the personality
all principles
exist in distortion,

just as in the purified part
of the personality
all principles
exist

- in truth,
- faithful to their real meaning.

26

Each new phase
is greeted with
rebellion against
the authority
that presents you with
what seems to break
the tradition
you have become accustomed to.

Tradition
is created
wherever human life takes form.

It [i.e., Tradition]

exists

on the

- largest social scale and

on the

- smallest,
- most temporary
scale.

The path

as you have known it,

say until two years ago,

had established

a certain tradition

with which you had begun to feel

somewhat comfortable.

This tradition

had to be

- broken –

- renewed –

by adding

new truths to it –

- new

to you,

but

- not new

per se,

for these truths

have always existed.

Only after your

- accepting and

- trusting

the new truths

did they become incorporated

into the body of

- the total work,

- the path.

So a
temporary "new" tradition
came into being
until the next breath
of the great pulsating movement
[that] the organism was ready for
vibrated into
matter.

When you
• trust
the new/old truth
and
• do not obstruct it,
you incorporate it [i.e., the new/old truth]
in your life
and thus

- your entire consciousness is
 - widened and
 - expanded;
- wisdom,
- freedom and
- abundance
is added on to you.

27

Growth
is not possible otherwise.

It [i.e., Growth]
can only exist
when
this movement is

- intact and
- as unobstructed as possible.

	<p><u>Growth</u> <u>must combine</u> • <u>the old</u> <u>and</u> • <u>the new.</u></p> <p><u>It [i.e., Growth]</u> <u>must</u> • <u>retain</u> <u>tradition</u></p> <p><u>and</u> • <u>renew</u> <u>and</u> • <u>enliven</u> <u>it [i.e., renew and enliven tradition].</u></p>
28	<p><u>These [old/new, continuously renewed and enlivened traditions] are</u> <u>eternal</u> • <u>verities and</u> • <u>principles</u> <u>that hold true</u> <u>for</u> • <u>everything,</u> <u>for</u> • <u>every conceivable aspect of life.</u></p> <p><u>I spoke about this [i.e., about how old/new traditions are eternal truths and</u> <u>principles that are continuously renewed and enlivened and hold</u> <u>true for everything and for every conceivable aspect of life]</u></p> <p>• <u>quite generally and</u> • <u>abstractly,</u> <u>but would now like to address myself</u> <u>more specifically</u> <u>to</u> • <u>the new phase of expansion</u> <u>you are going through</u> <u>and</u> • <u>the attitudes in you</u> <u>that make this expansion</u> <u>unnecessarily painful.</u></p>

*In your fear [of change and of something new]
you confuse issues;*

your thinking becomes

- *muddled and*
- *disconnected*
 - *in your very attempt
to rationalize
your rebellion
against something new,*
 - *when you endeavor to maintain
the comfortable confines of this path
as you have known it till now.*

*But it [But the spiritual path you are following and
that you do not want to change]
would not be this path [i.e., would not be this pathwork]
if it could remain static.*

The [spiritual] path is

- *a movement,*
- *a journey,*
 - that comes to a halt
when the movement
is obstructed.*

Stagnation

*was the fate
of many*

- *spiritual,*
- *religious,*
- *psychological*
 - truths*
 - that have been filtering through
into your world of matter.*

Stagnation

*has been the fate
of so much
that once had
deep value.*

People

stopped the movement
due to their fear
of antagonizing
those who obstruct
further

- movement,
- change and
- expansion.

They lacked the vitality
to withstand
opposition
to further

- expansion and
- movement.

This is why
so many

seemingly new
• organizations,
• orientations, or
• schools of thought,
arise constantly.

The old is
either

• being calcified
by the distorted concept of
• tradition,

or

• totally disrupted
by the distortion of
• seeking
change,
• seeking
the new.

29

So far [*i.e., From Lecture 1 (3/11/1957) through this Lecture 246 (12/14/1977)*]
we have succeeded
in keeping this path on course
in this respect [*i.e., in respect to balancing tradition with change*],
combining

- **tradition**

and

- **change**

in their best sense,
thus keeping the spirit pure.

Opposition to
both these aspects –

- **tradition**

and

- **change –**
 - **has existed,**
 - **exists now and**
 - **will exist,**

of course.

But
the nucleus of this path
has kept a steady balance.

We pray to the Lord
for His grace
that this [*i.e., that this steady balance between tradition and change*]
will continue.

30

Let us make
a brief review,
from this point of view [*i.e., this point of view of maintaining this*
steady balance between tradition and change],
about the various phases of this path
until now.

*I will give a general outline
to help you to evaluate
where you are at this juncture.*

*Before doing so,
let us restate
what this path is,
so as to avoid
any possible confusion
that may have arisen
through the turmoil of your mind.*

*This entire turmoil
is an artificial creation.*

*Be that as it may,
you again need clarification.*

31

*The aim of this path
is to effect
personal development
to the utmost
of the individual's potential,
on all levels.*

*For this growth to take place,
a variety of approaches
are necessary.*

[1. The Mental Level and approach]

*The mind
needs to be totally emptied
in the sense of a recent answer I gave to a question.*

*All preconceived notions
need to be*

- challenged and*
- examined –*

*this means
openness to change.*

In this open state,

some

old

- opinions,
- beliefs and
- ideas

will be reinstated

because

their truth

will become discernible

on a deeply felt level;

this means

preserving

tradition.

Then

the old truths

will live

in a new way

in the consciousness of the person;

this means

• enlivened,

• renewed

tradition.

Other old beliefs

will be discarded

because

they no longer make sense –

and this again means

• change.

[2. The Emotional Level and approach]

On the emotional level
a similar process occurs,
but it needs to be approached in a different way.

In order to

- cleanse emotions and*
- make them*
 - life-affirming,*
 - life-destroying,*

rather than

you must have

- clear and*
- truthful*

concepts.

Emotions
cannot live in a void,
without
any mental processes
because
the human being
is a

- thinking and*
- discriminating*

creature.

Humans
are not meant to live by
blind emotions.

To develop their emotional nature,
they need to go through the process of
accepting their feelings,
no matter
how destructive they may be.

People must
learn to find a way
to express them
without damage to

- themselves or*
- others.*

**Once people learn
to accept
even their destructive feelings
they can begin
to change them.**

**This [i.e., *Accepting and changing their destructive feelings and emotions*]
requires**
• *their full intelligence and*
• *the maturity*
of their mental processes
so that
a proper evaluation of the feelings
can take place.

[3. *The Physical Level and approach*]

It [i.e., *For humans to effect personal development to the utmost of the*
individual's potential on all levels]
requires
their physical nature
to become
• *healthy and*
• *enlivened*
by creative energy.

[4. *The Spiritual Level and approach*]

Last but not least,
such change [i.e., *such change that is required for humans to effect*
personal development to the utmost of the
individual's potential on all levels]
requires
spiritual
• *influx and*
• *help,*
without which
neither
• *the strength*
nor
• *the wisdom*
to direct this ever-changing process
can exist.

33

Throughout the years

I have constantly focused

- on showing you these various levels
through many teachings

and

- on helping you
through
 - guidance,
 - inspiration and
 - advice,to alternate
from level to level.

At one time

you would have to concentrate more on
the emotional level,

learning to

- accept and
- deal with
feelings

whose force

you inordinately

- feared and
- denied.

At other times

you had to concentrate on
your mental

- processes and
- images,

in order to

recreate

more realistic thoughts.

At yet other times

you concentrated more on
your body,

to make it

a fitting receptacle for

- truth,
- love,
- wisdom and
- service.

	<p><u>At times you concentrated more</u> <u>on</u> • <u>spiritual understanding,</u> <u>on</u> • <u>a new outlook of creation as a whole, and</u> <u>on</u> • <u>learning meaningful</u> • <u>prayer and</u> • <u>meditation.</u></p>
34	<p><u>Without</u> • <u>this constant interfacing [among the levels],</u> <u>without</u> • <u>the inclusion of all these levels [i.e., the inclusion of the mental, emotional,</u> <u>physical, and spiritual levels],</u> <u>development</u> <u>would</u> • <u>be lopsided</u> <u>and</u> <u>would therefore</u> • <u>finally come to a halt.</u></p>
35	<p><u>The aim of this path [i.e., this pathwork]</u> <u>is a development of consciousness</u> <u>that is almost unprecedented.</u></p> <p><u>But in your world</u> <u>only a relatively small group of individuals</u> <u>is indeed ready for</u> <u>this evolution</u> <u>of their personal being,</u> <u>thus contributing to</u> <u>the evolution of</u> <u>your entire sphere of consciousness.</u></p>

A renewal of this kind
brings about
an untold expansion of
personal
• happiness and
• fulfillment.

Yet
personal
• happiness and
• fulfillment
must
not be
the primary aim.

The primary aim
must become,
at one point along the way,
service to the greater cause.

When this happens,
the willingness to sacrifice
soon turns out to be
the most fulfilling act of life.

Sacrifice
appears
less
and less
a sacrifice,
until it becomes evident
that
• God's will
coincides with
• your self-interest
in the
• best and
• most far-reaching
way.

The

- Godman or
- Godwoman –

the

- New Person –

evolves out of this work
that includes

the totality

of the individual:

the

- physical,

the

- emotional,

the

- mental

and

the

- spiritual

level of being,

until they are

- all integrated into

one whole

and

- no longer separated.

Thus

- the thinking

is

- the feeling,

is

- the bodily sensation,

is

- the prayer.

	<p><i><u>This wholeness</u></i> <i><u>represents</u></i> <i><u>the utmost of</u></i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i><u>liberation,</u></i>• <i><u>power</u></i> <i><u>in the best sense,</u></i>• <i><u>individuation,</u></i><p><i><u>and,</u></i> <i><u>what may appear as a contradiction,</u></i></p><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i><u>total surrender to</u></i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i><u>God's will,</u></i> <i><u>which</u></i> <i><u>is</u></i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i><u>the individual's will.</u></i></p>
36	<p><i><u>So, this path [i.e., this pathwork]</u></i> <i><u>is</u></i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i><u>many things.</u></i><p><i><u>It [i.e., This path or pathwork]</u></i> <i><u>is</u></i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i><u>a psychology,</u></i> <i><u>for you obviously work on</u></i> <i><u>your</u></i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i><u>psychological attitudes,</u></i><i><u>your</u></i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i><u>feelings,</u></i><i><u>your</u></i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i><u>unconscious processes.</u></i><p><i><u>It [i.e., This path or pathwork]</u></i> <i><u>is</u></i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i><u>a philosophy,</u></i> <i><u>for you adopt new ways</u></i> <i><u>of seeing the world.</u></i><p><i><u>It [i.e., This path or pathwork]</u></i> <i><u>is</u></i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i><u>a physical orientation,</u></i> <i><u>for you work with your body.</u></i></p></p></p></p>

It [i.e., This path or pathwork]

is

- *a sociology,*
for you learn new modalities
to function in your social environment.

It [i.e., This path or pathwork]

is

- *a new political system,*
for you learn to combine
both
 - *tradition**and*
 - *change**in a very new way.*

It [i.e., This path or pathwork]

is

- *religion,*
for you learn about
 - *Creation,*
 - *your part in it and*
 - *your new relationship to God.*

It [i.e., This path or pathwork]

is

- *all [i.e., It is all of these things]*
and it is
 - *none of these things.*

It [i.e., This path or pathwork]

is

- *the creation of*
a new planetary being [or new person],
with
 - *new values**and with*
 - *old truths renewed.*

	<p><i><u>This new person</u></i> <i><u>will gradually</u></i> <i><u>• overtake and</u></i> <i><u>• influence,</u></i> <i><u>step by step,</u></i> <i><u>those who want to</u></i> <i><u>obstruct this development.</u></i></p>
37	<p><i><u>When you look back on the material I</u></i> <i><u>• brought and</u></i> <i><u>• taught</u></i> <i><u>you,</u></i> <i><u>you will easily see that</u></i> <i><u>I have emphasized</u></i> <i><u>this alternation systematically.</u></i></p> <p><i><u>I have concentrated on</u></i> <i><u>different</u></i> <i><u>• levels and</u></i> <i><u>different</u></i> <i><u>• aspects at</u></i> <i><u>different</u></i> <i><u>• times,</u></i> <i><u>only to come back</u></i> <i><u>after a certain period of absorption</u></i> <i><u>to the previous levels.</u></i></p> <p><i><u>I have started</u></i> <i><u>by giving you</u></i> <i><u>an overview of spiritual reality</u></i> <i><u>in the most simplified way.</u></i></p> <p><i><u>I have then gone on</u></i> <i><u>to convey</u></i> <i><u>new concepts,</u></i> <i><u>most of the time aimed</u></i> <i><u>to bring</u></i> <i><u>the split of duality</u></i> <i><u>into a new unity –</u></i> <i><u>just as I do now</u></i> <i><u>with</u></i> <i><u>• tradition</u></i> <i><u>and</u></i> <i><u>• change.</u></i></p>

I have then entered into
a new phase of
exploring
• inner,
• unconscious
• levels and
• attitudes.

I have taught you
how to experience
• pain,
• helplessness,
• rage.

I have helped you to
• see and
• accept
your
• mask [self] and
your
• lower self.

I have opened up to you
the vista to
your
• higher self.

I have
re-entered into the spiritual realms
with your
• thoughts and
• feelings.

38

You have
worked hard along the way.

Phase
by phase,
spiral movement
after spiral movement,
we have followed
this journey.

Each phase

- seemed new and
- was always opposed
by reasonings
that were always
rationalizations.

Each phase

- was of course
also
old,
because
no eternal truths
are totally new.

They [i.e., Eternal truths]

- may be
new
here
in their
 - application and
 - combination.

When your

- mental processes
were challenged,
there were always those
who
 - did not want to tamper with them [i.e., those who did not want to
tamper with their mental processes]
- and
 - resisted [i.e., resisted changing their mental processes].

When it came to working with your

- emotional processes,
there were always those
who
 - resisted "psychological therapy."

When

- spiritual truths
were discussed,
there were always those
who
did not want "religion."

	<p><i><u>Each of these arguments [that resisted change]</u></i> <i><u>came from</u></i> <i><u>the fear</u></i> <i><u>of expanding into</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i><u>who you are</u></i> <i><u>meant to be,</u></i>• <i><u>who you potentially are</u></i> <i><u>on the unmanifest level of reality.</u></i>
39	<p><i><u>At the present time,</u></i> <i><u>the mention of</u></i> <i><u>Jesus Christ</u></i> <i><u>elicits</u></i> <i><u>the same resistance</u></i> <i><u>that has always existed</u></i> <i><u>when</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i><u>an extended approach,</u></i>• <i><u>an old/new truth</u></i> <i><u>was introduced anew.</u></i> <p><i><u>When</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i><u>unconscious,</u></i>• <i><u>irrational</u></i> <i><u>feelings</u></i> <i><u>were lifted to the surface,</u></i> <i><u>many of you</u></i> <i><u>were terrified;</u></i> <i><u>some friends</u></i> <i><u>left the path.</u></i> <p><i><u>The same thing happened</u></i> <i><u>when responsibility</u></i> <i><u>for the lower self</u></i> <i><u>became an essential aspect</u></i> <i><u>of the pathwork.</u></i></p>

When

- prayer and
- meditation

were explained in detail and

- their dynamics
- taught

so that you could use this essential tool,

again many turned away

with

- resistance and
- rebellion –

always rationalized, of course.

When

- the body

was included into the total work,

the same reactions came up.

When

- different spiritual realities
- were emphasized –

Jesus Christ is one of them –

this, too,

was used as an opportunity

to avoid

- the total revision
- of personality aspects,
- the healing of the soul.

Yet

none of these [new] aspects

was a surprise,

since

all of them

were

- foreshadowed and
- discussed

at the very beginning of my manifestation
through this instrumentality.

I also explained

that

concentration on these various levels of being

will

- alternate and
- follow a certain rhythm.

40

As I mentioned before,
you must understand
that every one of these truths
exists in
• the spirit reality
and
is thus
• neither old
• nor new,
and yet
is
• both [old and new].

It [i.e., every one of these truths]
is old,
because it [i.e., because every one of these truths]
has always existed.

It [i.e., every one of these truths]
is new,
because it [i.e., because every one of these truths]
now
breaks through
into your level of reality.

These aspects of reality
may not have the same name,
for in the world of spirit
names do not exist
in the same way
as in your dimension of reality.

But
their essence
exists
and
what you
• experience and
• perceive
here [in your dimension of reality]
about any and all
of these
• approaches and
• realities
are merely segments.

*For it is hardly possible
to experience
a total reality
on your level of consciousness.*

*This [i.e., Being able, on your level of consciousness, to experience merely
segments of reality and not a total reality]*

then leads

- *to naming the thing;*
- *to creating often false
associations to the thing; and*
- *to partial
and therefore distorted
vision of the thing.*

41

*When psychology
made its appearance on earth,
it was
for you
entirely new.*

*Yet in the world of spirit,
these levels of consciousness
are*

- *open,*
- *visible,*
- *observable and*
- *accessible.*

*They [these psychological levels of consciousness in the world of spirit]
cannot possibly
create the controversy
that the appearance of psychological realities
created on your earth sphere
for a long time.*

Psychology then [on your earth sphere]
often came to mean
an opposition to
spirituality,
a contradiction [i.e. the view that psychology
contradicts spirituality]
which, of course,
is utterly false.

So you still find
• spiritual leaders,
• ministers and
• priests
who are against
psychological depth work.

42

By the same token
Jesus Christ
has always existed.

He [i.e., Jesus Christ]
• is,
• always was, and
• always will be
• the Great Light
that directly emanated from God,
• the manifestation
that God gave form to;
• the most divine embodiment
in the universe.

For many of you
who strongly react
in the most negative way
when you hear the name
Jesus Christ,
this fact [i.e., this fact that Jesus Christ is, always was, and
always will be the Great Light, the manifestation
that God gave form to, and the most divine
embodiment in the universe]
in itself

- would not,
- could not,

carry any negative connotations.

The ancients,
long before the birth of Jesus Christ,

- always knew of
this great light

and also

- knew that it [i.e., knew that this great light]
will one day manifest
as human form.

Why is this fact [i.e., Why is this fact that Jesus Christ is, always was, and always
will be the Great Light, the manifestation that God gave
form to, and the most divine embodiment in the universe]
being resisted so?

At one time
the resistance was
entirely

- political and
- power-oriented,

just as

- new and
- honest

political approaches
are resisted
now.

Those in power

- would be disadvantaged by them [i.e., by new and honest approaches]
and thus
- would oppose them [i.e., would oppose new and honest approaches].

43

Your

- personal
- irrational

reactions

to the truth of Him

who was foretold by your very forefathers
but then denied,

is solely based on
false tradition,

which is nothing but
fear of change.

Thus

your reactions [to Jesus Christ]

are

- emotional and
- irrational.

They [i.e., Your reactions to Jesus Christ]

do not allow a

- calm,
- open,
- fresh

approach

that

- can question the issue objectively and
- make room

for the possibility that

your forefathers have erred

at a certain point of their evolution.

They [i.e., Some of your forefathers who have erred at a certain point of

their evolution]

have

- halted their process and
- interrupted

the line of their

inner movement –

- individually and
- as a people.

	<p><i><u>This [i.e., People erring at a certain point of their evolution]</u></i> <i>happens constantly in human development,</i> <i><u>in many other areas [i.e., in many areas other than those</u></i> <i><u>relating to Jesus Christ],</u></i></p> <p><i><u>with many different</u></i> <i><u>• individuals and</u></i> <i><u>• peoples.</u></i></p>
44	<p><i><u>Why is this possibility [i.e., this possibility that some of your forefathers have</u></i> <i><u>erred at a certain point of their evolution]</u></i> <i><u>so stubbornly rejected,</u></i> <i><u>so as</u></i> <i><u>to not even permit consideration of it?</u></i></p> <p><i><u>You do not permit</u></i> <i><u>your hearts</u></i> <i><u>to be open to</u></i> <i><u>a truth</u></i> <i><u>that you felt hitherto</u></i> <i><u>disinclined to accept.</u></i></p> <p><i><u>But truth</u></i> <i><u>can fill you</u></i> <i><u>only when</u></i> <i><u>you</u></i> <i><u>• remove the</u></i> <i><u>tight</u></i> <i><u>so-called "knowledge" and</u></i> <i><u>• make room for</u></i> <i><u>a different knowledge.</u></i></p> <p><i><u>• If this open attitude exists</u></i> <i><u>and</u></i> <i><u>• if your originally believed-in truth</u></i> <i><u>is indeed</u></i> <i><u>truth,</u></i> <i><u>you will come back to it [i.e., come back to your originally believed-in truth]</u></i> <i><u>anew.</u></i></p>

But if it [i.e., But if your originally believed-in truth]
turns out to be
faulty,
you will
remove an obstruction
that can only

- *limit and*
- *bind*

you.

In either case [i.e., In either the case that your originally-believed-in truth
turns out to be truth or the case where it turns out to be faulty],

- *your*
liberation and
- *your*
selfhood,
- *the discovery of*
inner truth
that is
both
 - *personal**and*
 - *universal,*

can only lie in this

- *openness and*
- *willingness to*
 - *let go and*
 - *consider different possibilities.*

Your fear
that you will thus
lose your autonomy
is totally

- *false and*
- *irrational.*

	<p><u>Real autonomy</u> <u>must rest on</u> <u>what is</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>cosmic and</u>• <u>universal</u> <p><u>truth,</u></p> <p><u>not on a</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>personal and</u>• <u>possibly false</u> <p><u>opinion</u> <u>about</u> <u>universal truth.</u></p>
45	<p><u>The personal longing</u> <u>that brought you to this path,</u> <u>regardless of</u> <u>what you had consciously in mind,</u> <u>can only be fulfilled</u> <u>when you bring</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>your personality</u> <p><u>into alignment with</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>spiritual truth,</u> <u>whatever that [i.e., whatever that spiritual truth]</u> <u>may be</u> <u>at any given time</u> <u>of your evolutionary journey.</u> <p><u>Some of you</u> <u>violently struggle against</u> <u>this movement [i.e., against this movement to bring your personality into</u> <u>alignment with spiritual truth],</u> <u>but</u> <u>ignorantly so.</u></p> <p><u>The deep reason</u> <u>for this struggle is, as I said,</u> <u>fear.</u></p>

The tragedy is

that

• **while**

**this fear [i.e., this fear of the movement needed to bring
your personality into alignment with spiritual truth]**

is entirely

• **needless and**

• **unfounded,**

• **there is**

everything to fear

from

• **obstructing and**

• **not even considering**

a larger truth

you have

not allowed into your heart

as yet.

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With this, beloved friends,

I

- deeply bless you and
- pray
with
 - the angels and
 - the spirit helpers
on my side

that

all of you
may find
the

- courage and
- wisdom,

the

- openness and
- freshness
to give

- new considerations

to

- old truths

and thus

flow with

the beautiful rhythm

of your inner journey,

so that it [i.e., so that your inner journey]

may be in harmony

with the

- larger and
- vaster
cycles

that permeate the universe.

You thereby

create

- tradition
in the best sense

and

- change
in the best sense.

You

- retain
the values
of the old

and

- constantly eliminate
values
no longer applicable.

This follows the same laws of

- digestion

and

- elimination
that apply to the body.

The system

could not be kept

- cleansed and
• working well

if this process
were not allowed.

The healthy body

lives

positive

- tradition

and

positive

- change

in its marvelous apparatus of

- digestion,
• elimination and
• assimilation.

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A great
• **blessing and**
• **energy influx**
sweeps
through
• **your community,**
through
• **the earth,**
through
• **all hearts**
that are
• **open and**
• **receptive and**
• **willing.**

God's love
envelops you all.

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