

Pathwork Lecture 251: The Evolution And Spiritual Meaning of Marriage – New Age Marriage

1996 Edition, Original Given May 17, 1978

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

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03	<p><u>Blessed are</u> <u>your</u> <u>• lives,</u> <u>all your</u> <u>• thoughts,</u> <u>• strivings, and</u> <u>• endeavors,</u> <u>my dearly beloved friends.</u></p> <p><u>Without your deep commitment</u> <u>to live up to</u> <u>your innate potential</u> <u>as people of God,</u> <u>we could</u> <u>never fulfill</u> <u>our own tasks.</u></p>

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We depend on
your
• truth and
• love,
as you depend on
ours.

We depend on
your giving yourselves
to the Creator,
as you depend on
our giving
to Him.

Let this
• beautiful
• mutual
work
always
be blessed anew
in the name
of the Lord,
Jesus Christ.

04

His name [i.e., The name of the Lord, Jesus Christ]
would never elicit
so much
• ambivalence and
• negativity
if divine truth
had not been
so distorted
• in all areas,
even
• concerning his life
on
• earth
and in
• heaven.

All
great divine influxes
lend themselves
more
to distortion
than
the milder forms
of creative manifestation.

With the knowledge you have gained
you can easily observe this
in your lives.

The
great spiritual forces
contained in
dynamic love
are
more
• feared,
• resisted, and
• maligned
than
lukewarm currents.

This [i.e., Because the great spiritual forces contained in dynamic love are
more feared, resisted, and maligned than are the lukewarm
currents feared, resisted, and maligned]
is the deepest reason

- why such stringent taboos existed
regarding
sexual love;
- why releasing
the spiritual forces
seems to be
the most
• threatening and
• dangerous
experience of all.

These powers [i.e., These powers of sexual love and powers of releasing spiritual forces]
are by no means merely ethereal;

they encompass
• the whole personality
and certainly include
• the body.

This is why
the Christ
• force,
the Christ
• consciousness,
the Christ
• reality

has suffered so much from
• misunderstanding and
• strife.

05

The spiritual forces are so strong that an unpurified personality cannot bear them.

To the degree that
• negativity and
• distortion
exist in an individual's
• mind and
• consciousness,
these powerful currents manifest as
• crisis,
• pain, and
• danger.

Nonetheless [i.e., *Even though these powerful forces can, because of negativity and distortion in an individual's mind and consciousness, lead to crisis, pain and danger*],

to be

- *part of these [powerful] forces and*
- *receptive to them* [i.e., *to be receptive to these powerful forces*]

is the deep longing of every soul,

- *consciously*

or

- *unconsciously.*

06

The development of the institution of marriage is significant from this point of view.

A deeper insight is needed now so that you can

- *widen and*
- *deepen your own understanding of marriage*

and

- *use this knowledge* [i.e., *use this deeper and wider understanding of marriage*]
- to articulate your longing.*

This [i.e., *Clearly articulating your longing from a deep level of understanding*]

is always

the first step toward bringing what you long for into actuality.

07

During the
many centuries
of its existence,
humanity
has developed
in many areas.

Let us consider [the area of]
marriage.

Understanding its [i.e., Understanding the institution of marriage's]
evolution thus far
will open your vision
to the future [i.e., open your vision as to the future of this
institution of marriage].

You will view
the current attitude toward
this institution [of marriage]
with the larger picture in mind.

History
can be properly understood
only when
the spiritual meaning
that underlies earthly events
is gleaned.

08

In the not-too-distant past,
marriage
served a number of functions,
but least of all [did marriage serve the functions of]

- sharing,
- love,

or

- mutuality

on all levels of the personality.

In fact, [in marriage]

- *love,*
- *mutual sexual surrender*

and

- *the profound exchange of dynamic energy levels*
was
 - *rejected and*
 - *condemned.*

Marriage

was supposed to be a

- *financial and*
- *social*

contract

to satisfy

- *other personality functions and*
- *lower motives.*

• *Financial and*

• *social*

advantages

were of primary importance.

Even more significant

was the absolute conviction

that these motives [i.e., that these lower level motives of financial
and social advantage]

were

- *morally right and*
- *virtuous.*

Men married

women

- *who brought a good dowry*

and

- *who raised men's social image.*

In other words, [in marriage]

• *greed and*

• *pride*

were

- *glamorized and*
- *endowed with righteousness.*

09

Men considered themselves
the superiors of women.

Marrying a woman
meant nothing more than
acquiring a slave

- who obeyed
the master of the house;
- who saw to it that
the man received every
 - comfort and
 - convenience

but made

- no demands
for herself.

In exchange
for these services,
which included
being an object
for man's
mostly quite impersonal lust,
the woman received
material security.

Her only responsibility
was
to be an adequate object
for her master.

Of course you understand, my friends,
that man's responsibility
entailed much more than
mere financial responsibility.

Since woman
was not considered
a full-fledged equal,
morally
she was barely responsible.

	<p><u>In those centuries</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>emotional and</u>• <u>mental</u> <p><u>responsibility</u> <u>did not exist</u> <u>as a</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>concept,</u> <p><u>but they [i.e., but emotional and mental responsibility]</u> <u>certainly existed</u> <u>as a</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>fact [of life].</u> <p><u>Even without</u> <u>the awareness of</u> <u>the concept [of emotional and mental responsibility],</u> <u>men acknowledged</u> <u>this [emotional and mental] responsibility</u> <u>toward</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>other men</u> <p><u>but totally neglected it [i.e., totally neglected</u> <u>emotional and mental responsibility]</u></p> <p><u>when dealing with</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>women.</u>
10	<p><u>Obviously</u></p> <p><u>this [i.e., Obviously, the man's total neglect of emotional and mental</u> <u>responsibility when dealing with women]</u></p> <p><u>was not only</u> <u>the result of men's</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>distortion and</u>• <u>negativity;</u> <p><u>it [i.e., the man's total neglect of emotional and mental responsibility</u> <u>when dealing with women]</u></p> <p><u>was just as much</u> <u>the result of a</u> <u>strongly embedded intentionality</u> <u>in the woman's psyche.</u></p>

	<p><u>Women</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>refused</u> <u>self-responsibility</u> <u>on all levels</u> <u>for the longest time</u> <p><u>and therefore</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>co-created</u> <u>the unequal relationship</u> <u>between the sexes.</u>
11	<p><u>Both sexes</u> <u>equally feared –</u> <u>and still fear –</u> <u>the powerful spiritual energies</u> <u>involved in</u> <u>the forces of</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>love,</u>• <u>eros, and</u>• <u>sex</u> <p><u>between</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>man</u> <p><u>and</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>woman.</u> <p><u>This power [i.e., This powerful spiritual energy involved in</u> <u>the forces of love, eros, and sex between man and woman]</u></p> <p><u>is</u> <u>the creative stream itself</u> <u>from which</u> <u>everything is made.</u></p> <p><u>This powerful current [i.e., This powerful spiritual current involved in</u> <u>the forces of love, eros, and sex between man and woman]</u></p> <p><u>can express itself</u> <u>in many ways,</u> <u>not just as</u> <u>a binding force</u> <u>between a</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>man</u> <p><u>and a</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>woman.</u>

It [i.e., This powerful spiritual current involved in the forces of love, eros, and sex between man and woman] can be expressed through spiritual disciplines within an individual, merging the

- masculine*

and

- feminine*
- principles and*
- power currents*

within an individual soul.

12

The unpurified soul cannot stand this power current [i.e., cannot stand the powerful spiritual current involved in the forces of love, eros, and sex].

To the degree unpurified soul substance festers in the personality, the power current [i.e., the powerful spiritual current involved in the forces of love, eros, and sex]

has to be

- denied,*
- suppressed, and*
- split.*

Sexuality that manifests without

- love,*
- commitment, and*
- respect*

is just such a

- split-off,*
- denied*

power current.

Human beings
who believe that
• pornographic or
• promiscuous
sex
is more pleasurable
than the sexuality
that
• streams from
a unified wholeness and
• combines with
• love and
• spiritual union

could not be more wrong.

The precise opposite
is true.

But the power of such sexuality [i.e., the power of sexuality that streams from a
unified wholeness and combines with love and spiritual union]
is so strong
that it cannot be borne
by the soul
that still lives partly in darkness.

13

Another human error
is the belief
that a married couple
faithful to one another
is necessarily
beyond the stage
of split-off sexuality.

The typical marriage of former times,
which I described earlier,
was
a complete
• suppression,
• repression, and
• denial
of the spiritual power currents.

In the man**this denial [i.e., this denial of the spiritual power currents in sexuality]****often manifested as****an inability****to experience****strong sexual feelings****for the woman he****• loved,****• honored, and****• respected.****Sometimes****the unconscious fear****of the [spiritual] power current [in the sexual experience]****is so strong****that****• the split is total, and****• a man finds himself****unable to****experience****sexuality****with a loved woman.****In many cases, however,****the split exists****with one and the same woman.****A man can give****relative****• honor and****relative****• love****to a woman he has married,****in spite of deeming her inferior,****yet blot out****her reality****during the act of sexual union.****This act [of sexual union with his wife when he has blotted out her reality****during the act of sexual union]****can be performed****only when****the woman becomes****a low object in the man's mind.**

	<p><u>Pornographic sex</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>can take place</u> <u>within the framework of respectable marriage</u> <p><u>and</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>is socially fully accepted.</u>
14	<p><u>For the woman,</u> <u>the denial of</u> <u>the unified [spiritual] power current [in the sexual experience]</u> <u>often manifested</u> <u>in total denial</u> <u>of the sexual reality</u> <u>of her body.</u></p> <p><u>Whenever her sexuality manifested</u> <u>in spite of</u> <u>all attempts to deny it,</u> <u>she experienced it [i.e., experienced her manifested sexuality]</u> <u>with</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>guilt and</u>• <u>shame.</u>
15	<p><u>Today</u> <u>the misunderstandings</u> <u>about sexual</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>guilt and</u>• <u>repression</u> <p><u>in your world</u> <u>are almost as great as ever.</u></p>

	<p><u>These</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>repressions and</u>• <u>denials,</u> <p><u>these</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>guilts and</u>• <u>false shames</u> <p><u>are not merely a result of</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>social mores and</u>• <u>bigoted influences,</u> <p><u>but are actually</u> <u>products of</u> <u>the inability</u> <u>to carry the force</u> <u>of the fully unified power current,</u> <u>whose strength</u> <u>can be borne</u> <u>only by someone</u> <u>at least relatively liberated from</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>negativity,</u>• <u>fear,</u>• <u>doubt, and</u>• <u>destructiveness.</u>
16	<p><u>The strongly sexual person</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>who experiences sexuality</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>without</u> <u>love,</u>• <u>without</u> <u>a deeply personal melding</u> <u>with a specifically chosen other, and</u>• <u>who</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>chooses passing partners</u> <u>without</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>heart and</u>• <u>mind and</u>• <u>is promiscuous,</u> <p><u>is essentially</u> <u>no different from the moralist</u> <u>who is faithful to a wife</u> <u>with whom he engages</u> <u>in surreptitious mating</u> <u>as a marital duty.</u></p>

Both [i.e., Both the strongly sexual person who experiences promiscuous sex without love and without a deeply personal melding with a chosen other on the one hand and on the other hand the moralist who is faithful to his wife but who engages in sex only out of a sense of duty]

are afraid of

the love-sex current

that is unified

through

• **the power of eros,**

through

• **the power of mutuality**

in

• **soul development and**

• **commitment to each other,**

through

• **personal purification.**

17

• **The man-woman relationship of the past**

and

• **the attitude toward marriage**

are the direct results

of this fear

of the unified love-sex current.

Self-purification

was practically nonexistent

for the average person,

existing

only in the churches

to any important degree.

But there again [in the churches],

the full power of the [unified love-sex] current

was diminished

by the edict of celibacy.

True, some

- specialty gifted and
- advanced
individuals
evoked this spiritual power
through their own individual endeavors.

The mystical ecstasy
is simply the release
of a spiritual power current
in which
God
is experienced
as a

- living and
- physical
reality.

This [i.e., This mystical ecstasy, this release of a spiritual power current
in which God is experienced as a living and physical reality]
can also
ideally happen
through the melding of

- a man

and

- a woman
• who are
sufficiently free from fear,
- who follow
together
a path of self-purification.

Their union
will release this
inner [spiritual] power current
so that they
will
experience
God
in

- themselves and

in

- each other.

18

Before discussing this experience further,
let us go back
to the evolutionary stages of history.

The picture I painted about marriage
is not very attractive.

Marriage
as it has existed for so long
was truly
a more sinful estate
than all the sins
the moralists who perpetuated these standards
condemned.

These moralists
directed the accusation of sin
toward

- illicit
sex;

toward

- promiscuous or
- pornographic
sex

that could be
outwardly
identified.

It is true
that these [outward] acts
indicate denial
of

- the God-given unification of
 - love and
 - sexuality,

of

- the greatest power current,
which is in itself
an expression of
the divine presence.

19

In a certain sense

this

- **fear [of the powerful love-sex current that is unified through the power of eros]**

and

- **denial [of the God-given unification of love and sexuality] is a symptom of**

- **the unpurified soul,**
- **the fallen spirit,**
- if you will.**

But

since

this unpurified soul state is a fact of evolution

and

since you all

also

fulfill a task [i.e., fulfill a task in evolution]

in your return to

the state of union with God [and therefore, being a part of evolution, since you all also go through unpurified soul states during your various incarnations],

it is futile to rail against this [i.e., rail against yourself or others who are in unpurified evolutionary states, states where one fears the powerful love-sex current that is unified through the power of eros, where one denies the God-given unification of love and sexuality and acts out accordingly].

Those who do [i.e., Those who do rail against those others (and themselves) who, in their unpurified state, fear the powerful love-sex current that is unified through the power of eros, and who deny the God-given unification of love and sexuality]

are themselves

- **fallen spirits,**
- **unpurified souls, and**
- **parts of this evolutionary movement.**

The appropriate attitude toward
fear of the
full power [of the love-sex] current
is one

- of acceptance of this fact of life [i.e., this fact of life that all humans go through unpurified states in the journey of evolution, states where this fear of the full power of the love-sex current is natural and leads to immature acting out in the arena of sexual behavior and attitudes;
- of gentle training so that the personality can gradually
 - acclimatize itself to this high-powered [love-sex] force and
 - bear it [i.e., bear this high-powered love-sex force] in comfort.

Ecstasy

- can
- and
- will
become comfortable
as the soul grows in stature.

This [i.e., The soul's growth]
happens
through a process of development
over
many
incarnations.

20

The real sinfulness
of the attitude toward marriage
that prevailed until recently
resulted from
secondary guilt.

*Instead of
admitting the fear
of
• loving an equal,
the man
had to
put down
the woman.*

*Instead of
admitting fear
of
• loving an equal
and [admitting fear of]
• experiencing
the pleasure of sexuality,
the woman
had to
alienate herself from
the man
by making him
the enemy.*

*Instead of
admitting that
he feared
an equal
relationship,
the man
had to make
the woman
an object.*

*Instead of
admitting the fear
of self-responsibility
on all levels,
the woman
made herself
an object
and then
blamed the man
for this
mutual
creation.*

	<p><u>Both sexes</u> <u>denied the fear</u> [i.e., <u>in the man, fear of loving an equal, and in the woman, fear of loving an equal, fear of experiencing the pleasure of sexuality, and fear of self-responsibility on all levels, i.e., Both man and woman denied their fear</u>], <u>[the fear] which in a deeper sense</u> <u>might be called</u> <u>the primary guilt,</u> <u>a guilt that</u> <u>all people share</u> [i.e., <u>all people share the primary guilt for their fear regarding aspects of the love-sex current or force</u>].</p>
21	<p><u>The denial</u> <u>of the fear</u> [i.e., <u>the fear regarding aspects of the love-sex current or force</u>] <u>caused secondary guilts.</u></p> <p><u>Some of these secondary guilts</u> [i.e., <u>secondary guilts of denying the primary guilt of the fear regarding aspects of the love-sex current or force</u>] <u>gave energy</u> <u>to lower-self energy.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Material greed</u> <u>was fostered;</u> • <u>money,</u>• <u>power, and</u>• <u>social advantage</u> <u>became motives</u> <u>for choosing mates.</u> • <u>Mass images,</u>• <u>[outward] appearances,</u>• <u>idealized self-images</u> <u>were nourished;</u> • <u>pride and</u>• <u>vanity</u> <u>were elevated</u> <u>into false moral values.</u>

If you consider

- the moral indignation,
- the moral self-righteousness of men and women toward those who deviated from the accepted standards,

you can see

the strength of the secondary guilt [i.e., the secondary guilt of denying the primary guilt, the primary guilt being fearing aspects of the love-sex current or force].

The mask self

claimed

- greed,
- calculating self-interest,
- prideful appearance values, and
- the mutual using of each other as the highest of moral standards.

Such claims [by the mask self]

go way beyond ordinary hypocrisy.

A hypocrisy

- so deep-rooted and
- so pernicious required a strong uprooting;

otherwise

the soul could not heal.

It is important, my friends,

for you to see the nature of the attitude toward marriage through many, many centuries.

People marrying

for love were the great exceptions.

22

The collective state of consciousness
created these conditions
in most marriages of the past.

The
same
collective state of consciousness
also created

- karmic conditions,
- prerequisites for specific guidance
for subsequent reincarnations.

For example,
the antagonism
that generally existed
between

- men

and

- women

had to manifest
specifically
between
individual
men and women
to a much greater degree
than it does now.

It was often
predestined
that two such individuals
had to meet
as prospective marriage partners.

Their elders
would arrange it.

This kind of union [between two individuals predestined to meet as prospective marriage partners in order to meet karmic conditions and prerequisites for specific guidance for this particular incarnation]

gave the scope

to bring out

in each person

- *general and*

- *specific*

negative

- *feelings and*

- *attitudes,*

which,

once conscious,

became

the basis for transformation.

Thus, my friends,

the marriages

made in heaven

were by no means

always

positive unions

of

- *love and*

- *affection,*

- *attraction and*

- *respect.*

The negative mutuality

between many

individual

men and women

created

- *the collective consciousness,*

created

- *karmic conditions,*

and also

created

- *the standards of society.*

23

*In very recent times,
consciousness
made a great leap.*

*Humanity
has truly become ready
to
• shed
these old attitudes
and
• create
new
• conditions,
new
• standards,
new
• moral values.*

*This can clearly be seen
in your times
by many drastic changes.*

- The women's liberation movement,
- the sexual liberation movement, and
- a very different attitude
toward marriage
are clearly signs
of a newly emerging consciousness.

*These manifestations
must be viewed
in the light of
an overall evolutionary direction,
otherwise
you cannot really grasp
the inner meaning
of these changes.*

24

In all evolutionary movements

the pendulum

tends to swing

from

• *one extreme*

to

• *another.*

This [i.e., The pendulum swinging from one extreme to another]

is at times

• *inevitable,*

sometimes even

• *desirable,*

provided

the swings are limited.

But when the swings

are greater than

• *necessary or*

• *desirable,*

• *fanaticism and*

• *blindness*

develop exactly as they did

at the opposite extreme.

25

For example,
today's sexual freedom
is a reaction to
the shackles of former times.

To a degree
this phase [i.e., this phase of today's sexual freedom]
is necessary
until

- the wisdom of the new consciousness
becomes complete, and
- commitment to one mate
is experienced as
 - freer,
 - more liberated, and
 - infinitely more desirable
than the
 - uncommitted
 - free-floating
exchange of partners.

The cycle
had to move
from

- involuntary monogamous commitment –
with concomitant limitations
on personal growth
for both men and women –

to

- recognition of
the debilitating effects of this attitude and
- a consequent
 - libertinism and
 - polygamous expression.

From there
the movement can proceed
to

- a new groundedness in
real
 - inner freedom and
 - independence
that voluntarily chooses
monogamous commitment
because it yields infinitely greater fulfillment.

26

*A particularly pernicious aspect
of the old attitude toward marriage
was that*
• *the sexual need*
as well as
• *the need for companionship*
were polluted by
• *opportunistic,*
• *materialistic, and*
• *exploitative*
ends.

Even worse,
this
• *pollution and*
• *displacement*
*[i.e., pollution and displacement of the sexual need and the need for
companionship by and onto opportunistic,
materialistic, and exploitive aspects of marriage]*
was looked upon
as if it were
morally desirable.

Whenever
one soul current
is put secretly
into the service of
another [soul current],
both [soul currents]
become negative.

If
• *love,*
• *eros, and*
• *sex*
were given their rightful places,
then the
real
needs for
• *success,*
• *respect from the community, and*
• *material abundance*
could function
in a
higher-self way.

	<p><u>Humanity</u> <u>had to break away from</u> <u>the distortions</u> [i.e., <u>the distortions that natural forces of and human needs for experiences of love, eros and sex had to be restrained and sacrificed for the sake of success, moral respectability in the community, and material abundance</u>],</p> <p><u>and</u> [in breaking away from these distortions] <u>a certain amount of upheaval</u> <u>became inevitable.</u></p> <p><u>The sexual revolution</u> <u>had to manifest</u> <u>at times in undesirable ways –</u> <u>but undesirable</u> <u>only when</u> <u>seen out of context.</u></p>
27	<p><u>Of course,</u> <u>the true lessons</u> <u>must be learned</u> <u>individually.</u></p> <p><u>This is exactly what I am talking about.</u></p> <p><u>The old ways</u> <u>desperately need</u> <u>profound change.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>A new sexual expression</u> <p><u>and</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>a joyful acceptance</u> <u>of the sexual drive</u> <u>has to emerge.</u>

At the same time,
individual men and women
need to understand
the enormous importance

of

• the wholeness

of

- love,
- eros, and
- sex;

of

- affection and
- respect;

of

- tenderness and
- passion;

of

- trust and
- mutual partnership;

of

- sharing and

of

- helping each other.

It must be understood
that the committed relationship
is
not
a moralized edict
that deprives you of pleasure.

Quite the contrary
is true.

The power current
evoked through a fusion
between

- love,
- respect,
- passion, and
- sexuality

is infinitely more ecstatic
than the power of
any casual fusion
could ever be.

It [i.e., The power current evoked through a fusion between love, respect, passion (eros), and sexuality]
is so powerful, in fact,
that the very authorities
against whom
there has been so much rebellion
have feared this combined current
more than anyone.

These authorities
are not that far removed
from those who allow themselves
to experience sexuality
only
in a split-off way,

- *cut off from the heart,*
- *removed from*
real
 - *intimacy and*
 - *sharing.*

28

Knowing
the state into which
you

- *can and*
- *must*

eventually
grow
because it is
your innate destiny
is important.

It [i.e., Knowing this state into which you are growing]
is the chart [i.e., the map]
without which
you cannot steer your ship.

But
there is
• **a subtle**
• **yet distinct**
difference
between
• **using this model** [*as a map for where you are heading*]
and
• **forceful attempts** [*to use the map in order*]
to be [*already*]
what you have
not yet
organically
become.

If you
recognize the model [*of the state toward which you are evolving*]
without forcing yourself [*to be what you have not yet organically become*],
you accept
your human state.

You know that
by virtue of your humanness
you cannot
immediately
be the
• **ideal,**
• **totally fused**
individual.

You know that
it takes
• **a long time,**
• **much experience,**
• **many lessons,**
• **many trials and errors,**
• **untold incarnations**
until your soul
emerges
as a complete being.

You need to know that
such a state [i.e., that the ecstatic state of a complete being evoked through the
power of fusion between love, respect, passion (eros), and sexuality]
exists,
even if
you are still quite unable
to experience it.

You need to know it [i.e., know about the existence of this ecstatic state of
a complete being as your eventual destiny]

without
• self-pressure,
without
• self-moralizing,
without
• discouragement.

All these
forcing attitudes
are
• destructive and
• erroneous.

29

The attempt
to enforce
an ideal standard
that individuals cannot possibly live up to
at this time
has
unfortunately
been made by almost all
organized religions.

This is why
organized religion
has fallen into ill repute today.

The state of wholeness
should be placed
lightly
into your consciousness,
if I may use this expression.

*It [i.e., This state of wholeness that is your destiny]
should never
become a whip.*

*It [i.e., This state of wholeness that is your destiny]
should merely be
a reminder of
• who you
essentially
are already and
• who you
will one day become.*

30

*Just as it is foolish
to turn into an atheist
because of the errors of religion,
so it is foolish
to discard marriage altogether
because of previous distortions.*

*Before marriage began to be doubted
as a valid institution by many,
the attitude toward it
had already
begun to change considerably,
especially
in the last several decades.*

*Individuals began
to choose partners
• freely,
• motivated generally
by love.*

*This often led to
errors, however.*

Too often
individuals
who were
too

- young and
- immature

to form
a really meaningful union
chose marriage
based on
superficial attraction,
without
deep knowledge
of

- self
- or
- partner.

No wonder such marriages
could not survive.

But this step
was necessary
before maturity could be gained.

31

Just as

- individuals

cannot learn
unless they
experience

- mistakes and
- immaturities,

neither can

- the collective consciousness

[learn unless those in the collective experience
mistakes and immaturities].

New ways
have to be tried
by both [i.e., both by the individuals and by the collective consciousness]
before the soul reaches

- wisdom and
- truth.

The freedom

to

- *choose independently,*

to

- *experience*
 - *sexual and*
 - *erotic**pleasure,*

to

- *make mistakes and*
- *learn from them,*

to

- grow into*
 - *different and*
 - *more mature**relationships*
without condemning
less mature ones,

are all necessary

to learn

the real significance of
marriage.

It [i.e., marriage]
has to be seen
not as

a shackle
imposed by
a moralizing
• outer or
• inner
authority,

but as

- a freely chosen gift,
- the
 - greatest,
 - most desirable
state imaginable,
- the keenest
 - pleasure and
 - fulfillment

for which [i.e., for which, in order to have the capacity for
experiencing this level of pleasure and fulfillment that
will eventually be experienced in the mature sex-love
relationship,]

- the soul and
- the personality
have to become
 - strong,
 - resilient,
 - mature, and
 - capable.

- Bliss,
- ecstasy,
- pleasure supreme
can never exist
 - gratuitously,can never be
 - cheaply snatched.

They [i.e., Bliss, ecstasy, and pleasure supreme]
cannot be borne

that way [i.e., cannot be borne when merely gratuitously received
or cheaply snatched].

They [i.e., Bliss, ecstasy, and pleasure supreme]
can be borne
only
when the personality
has reached
sufficient

- purification,
- security,
- faith,
- self-knowledge,
- comprehension of the universe,
- Christness.

32

Sexual liberation
has to go through some stages
that may

- seem exaggerated,

or
may even

- be exaggerated,

before
further sexual liberation –
the unification of

- love,
- eros and
- sex –

can create
the new-age marriage.

Fleeting sexual encounters [with multiple partners]
should
not be looked upon
as the
final state of [sexual] liberation.

They [i.e., Fleeting sexual encounters with multiple partners]
are, at best,
a very

- temporary and
- limited

phase.

No one
who has ever experienced this stage [i.e., the stage of having fleeting sexual encounters with multiple partners]
has ever
truly
been satisfied by it,
not even
on the merely physical level.

You may
delude yourself
into thinking that this [i.e., that freely having fleeting sexual encounters with multiple partners]
is the best [sexual experience or life]
you could hope to experience,
but
it is not.

You may
deny
your deeper unfulfilled longing
because
some of the
hitherto unfulfilled longing
has been assuaged [i.e., assuaged by having fleeting sexual encounters with multiple partners].

But you have
so much further to go
in order to give yourself
what you really

- need,
- want,
- desire,

and
what you should indeed

- have.

33

As with the sexual revolution,
women's liberation, too,
had to go to some kind of
extreme –
at least temporarily.

So some women
had to become
as

- hard,

as

- unyielding

as their greatest enemy,
man,
in order to experience
their

- strength,

their

- capacity to be
- independent,
- self-responsible,
- creative, and
- resourceful.

As long as
this [i.e. As long as going to these extremes in women's liberation]
is a passing phase
from which
further changes will emerge
it [i.e. going to these extremes in women's liberation]
is all right.

But when this [i.e. But when going to these extremes in women's liberation]
is seen as
the final ideal,
it [i.e. going to these extremes in women's liberation]
becomes
as damaging as the

- suppressed and
- dependent

child-woman
you no longer

- want or
- need

to be.

The new-age woman
combines
• independence,
• self-responsibility,
• full-fledged adulthood
with the
• softness and
• yieldingness
that was
previously
associated
exclusively
with
the dependent parasite.

The new-age man
combines
his
• heart feelings,
his
• softness,
his
• gentleness
with
his
• strength and
• abilities,

not like the woman,
but in
a complementary way.

The two [i.e., the new-age woman and the new-age man]
can form
the new-age marriage.

34

The new-age marriage
will not be formed
early in life.

If the participants are
young,
they will have reached
considerable maturity
as a result of a

- *genuine,*
- *intense*

pathwork,
such as this.

The new-age marriage
is
a nucleus of strength,
with the partners
fortifying

- *each other*
- as well as*
- *others*

in a commonly undertaken task
for the greater cause.

The new-age marriage
is totally

- *open and*
- *transparent.*

There are
no secrets
whatever.

The soul process
of the pathwork
is totally shared.

This

- *openness and*
- *transparency*

has to be learned.

It [i.e., the new-age marriage]
is a path
within the path,
as it were.

You need to
expose your difficulty
in achieving this openness,
rather than
• denying or
• hiding
it [i.e., rather than denying or hiding from your partner your
difficulty in achieving this openness].

If you do not expose
your difficulty in being open [with your partner],
your unfulfillment [in your marriage]
cannot be alleviated
no matter how much
you try to blame it [i.e., try to blame your unfulfillment
in your marriage]
on
• your partner
or
on
• outer circumstances.

Part of this openness
consists of revealing
your fear
of the
• strong spiritual current,
of the
• forces released
by the unification of
• sexuality
and
• the heart.

When the fear
is shared –
even though you may be
unable to shed the fear as yet –
• the obstructions will be eliminated
relatively fast,
and
• a kind of
vibrant fulfillment
comes
even from this sharing.

35	<p><i><u>In the new-age marriage,</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i><u>being on a path</u></i> <i><u>of profound self-development</u></i> <p><i><u>and</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i><u>bringing into the light</u></i> <i><u>the hidden parts of the self</u></i> <i><u>are the prerequisites of fulfillment</u></i> <i><u>in an</u></i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i><u>alive and</u></i>• <i><u>vibrant</u></i> <p><i><u>relationship.</u></i></p> <p><i><u>When the vibrancy</u></i> <i><u>ebbs away,</u></i> <i><u>the causes</u></i> <i><u>need to be explored</u></i> <i><u>by both partners together.</u></i></p> <p><i><u>There may be any number of reasons</u></i> <i><u>for the stagnation,</u></i> <i><u>none of them necessarily</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i><u>bad or</u></i>• <i><u>shameful.</u></i>
36	<p><i><u>When all levels</u></i> <i><u>of the two personalities</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i><u>are open to each other,</u></i>• <i><u>join and</u></i>• <i><u>finally fuse,</u></i> <p><i><u>the</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i><u>intensity and</u></i>• <i><u>vibrancy</u></i> <i><u>of the sexual encounter</u></i> <i><u>will surpass anything</u></i> <i><u>you can at present imagine.</u></i> <p><i><u>You deeply long for it [i.e., <u>You deeply long for the intensity and vibrancy</u></u></i> <i><u>of the sexual encounter],</u></i></p> <p><i><u>because</u></i> <i><u>this fulfillment</u></i> <i><u>is</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i><u>your birthright and</u></i>• <i><u>your destiny.</u></i>

*It [i.e., the intensity and vibrancy of the sexual encounter]
can exist
only
in a partnership
such as I have described here –
[that is,] in the new-age marriage.*

*This kind of fusion
cannot come about easily.*

*It [i.e., this kind of fusion between the two partners]
is the result of

- infinite patience,
- growth,
- change,
- transformation.*

*But it
should live in your vision
as a possibility
you can indeed
actualize one day.*

37

*The fusion

- on all levels of
the personality

means the fusion

- of all energy bodies.*

*This [i.e., Fusion on all levels of the personality, fusion of all energy bodies]
is very rarely the case.*

*You will come to know
when the fusion
exists only on the

- physical
level,

and when it [i.e., when fusion]
happens on the

- emotional,
- mental, and
- spiritual
levels.*

All these energy bodies [i.e., All these energy bodies associated with the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual levels]

exist

in reality

and

can

• fuse

or

• not [fuse]

according to prevailing conditions.

When the fusion takes place

on all these levels [i.e., on the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual levels],

you

not only become one

with

• your partner,

but [you also become one]

with

• God.

You realize

God

in

• the mate

and [you realize]

God

in

• yourself.

No wonder

the power current

is too strong to bear

unless

your personalities

have reached

a high degree of

inner

• development and

• purification.

38

Once you realize
that
sexual fusion [on the physical level]
is
• insufficient and
• uninteresting
unless it [i.e., unless sexual fusion]
includes
all
the energy bodies [i.e., all the energy bodies of each
partner and not only the physical/sexual
energy body of each partner]
in the process of coming together [i.e., coming
together in the process of fusion into one],

your approach
to a sexual encounter
will become
very
different.

Sex
will never be
• casual or
• haphazard;

you will consider it [i.e., you will consider sex]
a holy ritual.

These [sexual] rituals
• will be created
by the individual couples
and
• may change over time.

They [i.e., These sexual rituals]
will never
deteriorate into
fixed routines.

The sexual encounter
is a true fusion
of the
• masculine
and
• feminine
principles
as
universal
forces.

Each sexual fusion
will be
a creative act,
bringing forth
new
• spiritual forms,
new
• heights of development
in the two selves
that can be passed on to others.

The complementary merging
of these two divine aspects –
the
• feminine
and
• masculine
forces –
will create
not only total
• fulfillment,
• ecstasy, and
• bliss,
but
• enduring new values and
• a true experience
of
• divine reality,
of
• the Christ
in the self
and
in the other.

39

My beloved friends,
this lecture should by no means
discourage you,
no matter
how far away you may seem to be
from the
destiny
I outline here.

You are moving in this direction
merely

- *by being able to*
comprehend this lecture,
- *by being capable of*
choosing to use it
in the most positive way
no matter where you are.

Knowing
this truth [about sexuality and the new-age marriage]
will free you
as any truth
must free you,
even if
you cannot attain its realization
in this life.

Rejoice that it [i.e., Rejoice that this state of sexuality and the new-age marriage]

- *exists,*

that it [i.e., that this state of sexuality and the new-age marriage]

- *waits for you.*

Know this truth [about this state of sexuality and the new-age marriage and
know the truth that this state waits for you]
as an enrichment
given to you.

40

There exists
a tremendous tension
between the
• male
and
• female
energy currents.

This tension can manifest in
• a positive
or
• a negative
way.

If it [i.e., If this tremendous tension between the male and female energy currents]
manifests
negatively,
sexuality
is fraught with
• denials
such as
• homosexuality,
• repression,
• asexuality,
• impotence,
• frigidity,
or with
• negative expression
as in
• sadism,
• masochism,
• fetishism.

To a degree,
it may be necessary
to give some expression to
negatively connected sexuality [i.e., negatively connected sexuality as
sexuality expressed in sadism, masochism, or fetishism],
for if it [i.e., for if such negatively connected sexuality]
is
completely denied,

- the total personality
is being thwarted

and

- the tension [between the male and female energy currents]
is so powerfully accumulated

that

nonsexual violence
is acted out.

If these [negative sexual] expressions
occur

- in fantasy

or

- in situations of mutual consent
where no one is

- harmed or

- forced,

they [i.e., these negative sexual expressions as in sadism, masochism, or fetishism]
can lead to

a more

- cohesive,

- connected

sexuality,

especially when this process [of expressing sexuality negatively
as in sadism, masochism, or fetishism]

is not glorified

but understood in its true meaning.

41

[Conversely,]

When the tension [i.e., this tremendous tension between the male and female energy currents]

manifests

positively,

it [i.e., this positive manifestation arising from the tremendous tension between the male and female energy currents]

is truly

a psychic nuclear point.

The new-age marriage

is

a psychic nuclear point.

- ***The energy released,***
 - ***the creativity liberated,***
 - ***the mutuality of ecstasy***
- are all***
deeply spiritual experiences
that happen
- ***in,***
 - ***through, and***
 - ***with***
- God.***

Divine sexuality

must be

recognized

in the New Age.

It [i.e., Divine sexuality]

is not to be found in

- ***old taboos and***
- ***denials,***

nor in

- ***moralizing judgments***
about this creative force,

neither is it to be found in

- ***deviations that occur***
as a result of

incomplete development.

**The explosive force
of the male-female tension
and its [i.e., and the explosive force of the male-female tension's]
release**

- **permeates
the total personality and**
- **transcends
the finite.**

**It [i.e., The explosive force of the male-female tension's release]
truly**

- **spiritualizes
the body**
- and**
- **materializes
the spirit,
which is the task [and the purpose]
of evolution.**

42

**With this,
I bless you,
my beloved ones.**

- **The Christ
within
your deepest soul**
- fuses with**
- **the Christ consciousness and**
 - **those energies
that**
 - **surround you and**
 - **fill you
with**
- his [i.e., Christ's]**
- **love,**
- his [i.e., Christ's]**
- **strength and**
- his [i.e., Christ's]**
- **blessings.**

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