

Pathwork Guide Lecture No. 6
An Unedited Lecture
May 20, 1957

GOD: FATHER IMAGE; THE THIRD KINGDOM: MATTER

Greetings! I bring you God's blessings. My dear ones, recently there were discussions of how difficult it is for man to subject his own free will to God's will. I want to say a little more about it. There is hardly a human being starting this path, where this would not apply. Therefore we want to now examine this problem together and what is the real reason that it is so difficult for man to subject his will to God's will. If you study this question, you will have to admit that it is definitely a lack of trust, yes, also a lack of trust in God. Even if you cannot clarify this in your thoughts, but emotionally it must be so. Because if you would trust God as could be expected, then no one would have difficulty to place His will above yours. Thus emotionally you react somehow, "I believe I know better what is good for me, what is more advantageous," while in reality it is not so!

"Love thyself" is the commandment; however, the love for self man practices is an unhealthy, shortsighted one. God's love for you is a pure, strong, and bracing love and thus is far-sighted and of great goodness, caring to let you have the best. Of course, often that which God has to send may be a little unpleasant, not because He would want it that way, but because the law of cause and effect based on your own past deeds and attitudes must be fulfilled, but once you have learned to accept, any burden will be considerably relieved of its weight. Yes, here too it helps to subject yourself to God's laws, then overcoming and battling the burden will make you stronger, freer, and happier, and you will understand its meaning better and better as you progress. Only after these self-created obstacles are overcome, the great happiness which God holds in store for you -- probably already on earth -- can be harbored. Victory over difficulties caused by self, even if you don't at first realize the cause, liberates you sufficiently to make you receptive for this happiness, that it may be gained, "endured," and maintained. And only those who advance spiritually will ever really experience this happiness and thus be able to see the difficulties from a less strained angle. When you trust God, really trust, there will not be such weight if you think, "Father, Thy will be done!" I urge you, my dear friends, each one of you and especially those who feel an emotional resistance when reading these words, to examine yourself with regard to trust in God. All these wrong inner attitudes have to be thought out and rectified, and this needs introspective viewing from all angles. Then you will find the whole answer. I give you this hint. It is an important key.

Now, perhaps the question is on your mind, "What if I found out that I lack trust in God?" But my dear ones, this is already a lot, that you find the sore spot! The recognition of your inner state will lead to further recognitions and keys until the whole clew is disentangled. Search for the why. Man's superficial questioning does not suffice. Therefore it is imperative to dig within in order to get well acquainted with the inner jungle. Man will always moan, "If there is a God of justice, how can there be so much trouble on earth?" This thought alone is lack of trust in God.

Thus you rather doubt God's justice and love than your own, and you don't include man's fallibility! This is already an important point. But more so, it should be considered that if such

feeling is deeply embedded in the human being, an interplay of purely personal problems which have not yet been realized is the underlying factor. Something very personal produces these resistances. Therefore it is of such urgency that man studies God's laws, and if the intellect is sufficiently developed and there is a will to see objectively, more and more light will be shed on the functioning of these divine laws, helping to level the ground for fruitful examination of emotional reactions. Oh, then peace and harmony will fill the soul, and man will be able to master life constructively. And one focal point is trust in God. If you really trust, you will gladly place everything in God's hands and be guided; you will give yourself over to God and decide with all your will power to will only that, do only that, which is in accordance with God's will. And only when you have reached this point, the individual contact with God's spirit world can be well established, acceptable as the true reality. You ought not to go on this path of self-examination for any other purpose than to liberate yourself and thereby embracing true happiness, with the ultimate goal -- since happiness is not attainable nor maintainable when sought for self-satisfaction -- to serve, help, and love more profoundly. Once you approach this level, being truly enlightened and strong, all this is no longer sacrifice. True love and service can only be rendered by the truly happy and free being -- the completed circle!

It occurs so often that a human being has a very personal objection against the idea that God is a being, gestalt, personality, thus the Father of all beings. As I said before, such strong inner resistance exists due to underlying personal struggle. I want to give another clue. If you feel this resistance, examine your relationship with your human father -- past or present. The Father-God concept is often resented because of resentment or rebellion against the human father (justified or not is not the point of discussion now). We are discussing the emotional relation between you and your father, how far are you conscious of a conflict with him, how deeply does it affect you emotionally by mere association -- rebellion against the higher power, which the father represents to the child, and rebellion against authority in general.

You may have carried over these rebellious emotions from early youth into an unconscious rebellion against God-Father. Such hidden feelings against the father are not really recognized, maybe superficially, without the deeper consequences, but this is not sufficient. I emphasize, wherever you find such strong rejection of the concept that God is gestalt, personality, father, it is connected with the earthly father or with the general attitude towards him. Contemplate this! If you discover your inner truth in this area, you will be able to say: "My former opinion was not based on objective conviction, but was the judgment of unrecognized, so far unconscious emotional reactions, which even colored my general viewpoints emotionally. And this I do not want as the spiritual, growing being of my desire."

Of course, not every human being with father problems will react in the same way. Others will react in the opposite direction; they, so to speak, compensate. By longing for a good father relation, they seek God, want to recognize God as the Father. But even here, I will say, it is immaterial. The truth is God is personality and gestalt, He is your Father. If you cling to God in a sickly manner, i.e., unconsciously compensating for the earth father, that relationship will be clouded because then you do not love God and you don't seek God in such case to find Him. Therefore, my dear ones, contemplate. Listen to the inner self, penetrate to the bottom. You will find how much the feelings for the earth father will color, influence, and confuse the relationship to God-Father either way: rejection because you rebel against the authority, or longing and compensation. Examine

especially this prime clue. Everything in the soul should be clear, pure, true, and healthy. It does not matter if a sickly feeling clings to something that is truth. Do you understand?

You do not realize to what extent these unrecognized feelings are responsible for man's attitude toward the most trivial and general subjects. Your best yardstick, your most helpful way of self-examination is, how do you feel when a certain subject is discussed? Are you calm and unconcerned inside? no disharmony? Then it is a sign that there is nothing bent and out of focus. You just have an opinion, right or maybe wrong, but there are no major personal feelings, inner problems, and conflicts involved. But when a subject creates a heaviness, resistance, or tension, then you may be certain that something in your soul is not well. This you have to find out yourself. If you cannot make head nor tail of what you discover, if you cannot jump the hurdle, then I will gladly help you see the light, maybe in a private discussion.

I tell you, my friends, you just cannot shy away from this truth if you seek sincerely, and if you fill your whole being with the thought that you want the truth as you may find it within you, if you are determined, even if your discoveries may seem to be unpleasant. Then you will be able, to a certain degree, to heal and liberate your soul and find happiness and convey your happiness to others! If you ask God for help, with your entire soul force, to show you the "red thread," he will assist you! Make a pledge daily to be open for the truth within you. It may be shown to you in different ways, but it needs your whole will-force at all times, a constant readiness to see. It requires courage! Only when you have overcome the resistance to will this continuously (I have said this before and will repeat it many times yet), then you will feel happy afterwards. The first reaction will be, emotionally: "I don't want to know it. Go away, go away truth. I close my eyes." And you will find all kinds of explanations. Then you might say: "I must face it. I want my soul to get well. I want to be a wholesome human being. I desire love and deep insight. Only this can be God's will. And if it is my Lord's will, then it will be good for me, and I will not moan when I have to face an unpleasant truth within me." Then there will be victory over the inner blindness, over the lower self, and thus over the darkness.

I want to repeat, every human being, not only a medium, can and should have a personal contact with God's spirit world. And everybody can have it, everybody! But the conditions have to be met. And if God's spirit beings speak to you (through a medium), they do not want to make some kind of puppet out of you in complete dependence, my dear ones. Lower beings, not to speak of the dark forces, will be glad to tell you sweetly to do or skip this or that in material problems. It gives them power and flatters their vanity. But an evolved spirit does not need this kind of power nor flattery. He wants what God wants, and God wants to make free and liberated human beings out of you, and real liberation can only be felt in God and through God and by the process of your personal soul work, recognizing what is God's will in a particular instance and what is not. We want to open your eyes to how all of you could establish contact with God's spirit world. Yes, this we want to show you. There are certain fixed rules, on the one hand, and on the other hand, it needs the elimination of your personal obstacles.

I will help all those who are willing to establish such contact themselves, and if you don't mind, I would like to explain certain principles how the initial contact can be made by each one, what has to be done. But you have to make your own decision. We do not want to force you in this area either. God does not impose on the free will either. Let us discuss this at the end, whether you want this. I may not always and not exclusively discuss this subject; it depends. It will also be

connected with a general lecture, which always contains hints for each one as to how to make the personal contact. I will also continue to answer your questions even if they do not concern this area. It could be some type of class, if you want this. When I ask you, answer honestly even if you do not want this. Whatever I will say may not be entirely new to you because I have mentioned in my lectures many things. But such a class would summarize the conditions step by step according to your progress. It is a great treasure man thus gains, the greatest, my friends. But it is not easy. For real treasures and this illumination, you have to pay a price! And the decision rests with man; it will not be made for him.

I want to emphasize, if you would not apply what you then learn in such a class, you are not justified to deny the spirit reality, not even before yourself. When a spirit of God outlines spiritual truth, every one of you can test it through practice, recognition, and most of all through living according to principles, by inner comprehension of such intensity that no doubt remains and the material evidence is secondary then. That is the point! If you do not abide by the laws sufficiently to reach the inner spirit reality, by absorbing what you hear and learn here and thereby to find the confirmation, then you do not have the right to doubt it. Now to your questions, my dear ones.

QUESTION: I would like to ask how the difference in concept -- the Indian and the Western -- regarding life after death can be explained, or, better, who is right? The Indian concept is that after repeated incarnations the soul finally returns to nothingness and there is the absolute dissolution of identity. The Western concept is that the personality and consciousness remain in existence?

ANSWER: At first, I wish to say that there is hardly a religious concept -- even a mistaken one -- which does not contain the core of truth. Something has been derived from the truth which, in the course of time, was distorted by misunderstanding, misinterpretation, error, omission of essential parts as it happens over long periods, and also because man, with the limited capacity of his intellect, does not comprehend the deeper meaning of many statements. But the core of truth is in it. And whenever you have a question of this kind, ask me, whatever religious concept it is or if it is a part from the Bible. I will gladly answer you as best as I can where the core of truth may be found. This will increase your general understanding.

To answer your specific question and in order to give the most precise answer, I want to explain first how it is in reality. The answer will give you an evaluation of both opinions. The higher evolved a being is, the fewer boundaries of the ego will remain. It is the ego which erects the wall of blindness and separation around the soul. At the very high level of development, the love-band which links one to the other -- the liberated love realization that all are connected in love -- comes forward. All who are connected through this band of liberated love feel the suffering of each one as if it were their own, and likewise are joys of one felt by all with the same intensity. The ego is the separating factor, this "I want my own throne," which ultimately implies that it wants the better place for self rather than for others. This ego disappears step by step as the being -- man or spirit -- progresses in his development. When the highest step is reached, the feeling of brotherhood, of love, and at oneness with the you -- every you -- is so complete that the individual soul vibrates in its entirety with the you, in true, free connection with all brothers and sisters and with the heavenly Father. It is so difficult to explain in words this reality to you because you still lack the inner experience and thus can hardly comprehend this. I can only beg you to make an effort to grasp the meaning between the lines so that you can somehow picture what I try to explain.

The highest level is that which we call "the house of God." Do not imagine this as a house, but it is a vast sphere. A being that enters the house of God and does not need to incarnate in the human body anymore has merged with the you so completely -- feeling everything equally strong with the others -- that the ego has been overcome. By the way, not all who don't need to incarnate into human body again enter the house of God instantly, but their further development takes place in other spheres of the spirit world.

Human beings make the mistake -- simply by confusing the basic concepts (this is not a reproach because it is understandable that man cannot help it with his limited mind capacity) -- to believe that the ego is identical with the individuality of a being. One has nothing to do with the other, one does not exclude the other. On the contrary, as I tried to explain in my lectures, consciousness of the "I" is expanded and intensified with every higher level a being reaches, and this is because the separating tendencies of the ego are overcome. This separateness is the blindness, the lack of understanding, and thus reduces and diminishes the awareness of the "I," the individuality. One day the ego must be overcome, the merging must take place. Thereby individuality is not relinquished; no, it crystallizes with growing liberation, light, understanding, and love.

You realize already, how in the Indian concept the core of truth can be deduced, as well as in the Jewish and Christian concept, to be seemingly contradictory to the other one. The Indian concept refers to the dissolution of the ego, while the Jewish and Christian concept emphasizes the individuality of the soul which truly eternally exists. Both are truth. And when the Indian concept took this form -- the nirvana -- it has the following reason. There were especially in India, through the ages, quite a few human beings who, by means of highly skilled meditation exercises (similar to those I want to show you in a possible class) and by reaching a high level of development, were able to separate their spirit from the body without losing consciousness and thus recollect the spirit's experiences.

Since it is a basic requirement for such spiritual experience and the great feeling of happiness connected therewith that the ego has been overcome to a great extent, it is easily understandable that other human beings who did not have such experience then distorted what they were told by these evolved human beings. Any feeling can hardly be expressed in words. The higher, more beautiful, and illuminating such feeling is, the harder it is to explain it in words to those who did not yet go through the same experience. This is true even more so for any spiritual experience. Therefore spiritual experience that has to depend on word of mouth and hearsay conveyance is of course much more easily subject to misunderstanding than facts are. And this has happened here. It is thus not the case that the individuality is dissolved and annihilated. If it were so, then the personal experience could not be registered nor raised into consciousness, and thus it could not be attempted to convey the experience, not even insufficiently. From all this, you may see how a concept that the individuality dissolves rose in the mind of man, but nevertheless it is quite a misunderstanding. As a matter of fact, it is an impossibility, my friends! Nothing created in beauty and purity by God dissolves, and especially not that of spirit, and the individuality in its pure form -- that is without the ego -- is purely spiritual. Nothing is extinguished.

When you see on earth a beautiful flower or a lovable animal and you think it is transitory because the body or the outer shell dissolves or the species is dying out, then you are mistaken. No, my dear ones, what is good and pure, i.e., the spiritual --- and the good and the pure are always

spiritual -- that does not dissolve. It exists eternally in a somewhat different form, but in its characteristics, that which is the "personality" is maintained. When you see a dead body, you say sometimes, "Life has left or has stepped out." Today you know already that this is the living spirit. Whatever is good and pure in the character of a human being or any creature does not dissolve; it exists eternally. Do you understand this?

QUESTION: Yes, and we human beings are concerned to know or at least get an inkling that it is the truth that bonds with loved ones remaining in existence.

ANSWER: That's what I say, of course. If there were no individual personality, there could be no contact with others, in love or otherwise. Not only is the love bond maintained with those who were very close, but some day in the future -- perhaps a long time from now, according to your time element -- these bonds will expand, and they will include other beings, even those you don't like or feel indifferent about. This love and this connection will, in ever growing expansion, include more brothers and sisters. Thus what is achieved in the spiritual development -- i.e., love, understanding, etc. -- can never get lost.

As far as the erroneous concept of complete dissolution of the personality is concerned, it was not formed or spread by those Indian great ones who had these spiritual experiences or felt the nirvana. I can tell you, if you would talk to such a human being, be it an Indian or any other one, he would confirm that it is as I have been trying to explain to you. He would confirm that it is a misunderstanding and that, on the contrary, the individuality, the intensity of the individual experience would only increase, not decrease, and that it is only the dissolution of the ego. And this is the essential difference! It would be good to contemplate and meditate about this difference because man thinks so often that his whole personality and individuality is ego connected. I want to say, the ego is part of the lower self; the individual personality is the sum total of the state of being at the present level of development, including the lower and the higher self. The lower self is that which decreases or vanishes. It makes you dense and earthbound, and as a matter of fact, it is the ego -- lower self -- which limits your individual capacity of spiritual experience, love for others, compassion, etc. Imagine that you have two selves fighting each other. This I always tell you. Once you are advanced enough to feel this difference and know how to discriminate one from the other, then you will understand these explanations much better, and you are closer then to the spiritual experience yourself. If man clings so tightly to his ego, it is not only because of the difficulty to overcome the low vibrations, but also because he erroneously thinks that with his ego traits he will lose his individual personality.

QUESTION: Our medium has asked to have the following asked. One of our friends, a follower of the Rudolf Steiner teachings, said that there are not only two "kingdoms" -- heaven and hell, good and evil -- but three. According to this concept, the earth is ruled by a being that is not Lucifer or the Devil, but by, I think it is Ahriman, who is the ruler of matter and who is supposed to be more dangerous for man than Lucifer. The medium would like to know whether this is true, how far, and where Ahriman comes in, what role he played in the fall. We only know about Lucifer. How is it?

ANSWER: Here, too, is a core of truth. I will explain it this way. You know that not only Lucifer fell, but he dragged many beings along. Not all of these beings are equally burdened. God had seven "sons," those first-created beings who were closest to Him. Two of them fell, in

addition to the other beings -- not all of them fell who were close to God in special ways. But about these, I do not want to speak now. It has nothing to do with the question, and it is not important for you to know all the details at this point because you cannot yet understand them, and it would create misunderstandings. It is sufficient now to know about this.

Now, one of the other sons of God who went with Lucifer is that spirit who rules matter; thus you may say he is the ruler of the earth. This spirit is also heavily burdened; however, Lucifer, who initiated the fall, is the most burdened spirit. When certain teachings say that there are three kingdoms, it is not quite true -- i.e., from this viewpoint, there are more than three because Lucifer, who is the most powerful spirit in those spheres which are separated from God, has given certain "districts," if I may say so, to other heavily burdened spirits, where they rule more or less independently and only with certain questions do they have to turn to Lucifer.

It is a replica of what exists in God's world as well as in man's world and which has to exist wherever a number of beings are living together -- order, different ranks. Also, here in God's world, the spirit beings have their independent power according to their development. Their area of activities is expanding continuously, where they can decide and rule, to a certain degree, and in the precise knowledge of the spiritual laws. But when it exceeds this certain degree, they have to turn to a higher spirit who has dominion over them.

It is true that this brother of Lucifer was given dominion over the earth, and he rules matter. It does not mean that the immediate world of Lucifer would not be able to contact you, but it is so that even this spirit then is ultimately a subordinated spirit and thus is part of Lucifer's sphere, even with as much power as he may have. If this was not specifically explained, then it is only because it is not essential per se. I told you that Lucifer also has his helpers endowed with much or little power. And the spirit who rules matter is one of them. But he is not the only one; there are other spirits of Lucifer's world who have almost as much or the same power in other "districts." It is impossible to explain all little details.

There are so many things which we don't tell you, not actually to keep them away from you, but also because there is no possibility of your understanding them, nor the necessity. There are spirits on earth which are under the direct supervision of Lucifer, i.e., from hell. Others are under the immediate supervision of this spirit of matter, which, however, are ultimately ruled by Lucifer, the boss, if I may say so. The difference is quite evident. When those human beings say that this spirit who rules the earth is more dangerous yet than Lucifer's helpers, then that is true because Lucifer's helpers are the spirits of evil, of hate, murder, envy, vanity etc., etc. They represent all these evil currents. However, these evil spirits can only then enter man's vibration when he gives in to his own evil -- or negative -- currents. When a human being has reached a certain level of development, maybe only in certain areas of his personality -- you know that unfoldment does not necessarily reach into all facets of the personality -- then the evil spirits can no longer take hold of man. Even if there are certain unhealthy roots left in your soul, there are many human beings who fight the evil and who do not give in to such negative influences. On the other hand, there are many human beings who are no longer capable of being altogether evil, and thus they are not in the service of Lucifer's world, but due to the low and wavering state of development, they are quite open for the helpers of this spirit that rules the earth, Lucifer's brother. These are the people who are completely engrossed in matter. Without trying to harm others with evil deeds, they have turned away from God and anything spiritual, thereby getting less sensitive in general, seeing less and less.

You see, here Lucifer's brother has gained victory directly, Lucifer indirectly! The aim of the dark forces is to turn all beings away from God.

Turning away from God and everything that is spiritual makes man receptive to the influences of Lucifer's world even if it was not the case in the beginning, but the strong attachment to the material things awakens again the certain low feelings. Thus this spirit of matter indirectly serves Lucifer. He can catch many human beings, where Lucifer would fail. In this subtle way, such human beings are caught in the net of matter ultimately for Lucifer. They are, by no means, always evil human beings. They are influenced by Lucifer's helpers directly, but the view for those who cling fiercely to matter darkens continuously. They do not expand their sight by searching for the path of self-recognition and discipline, of love and humility in order to establish contact with God's world. They live in a false, shallow, grey world, and nothing within them is really alive because their bondage to the material suffocates the spiritual or the living spirit.

Here I want to say that many people believe themselves to be spiritual because they love the arts or because they have intellectual interests. This does not make them really spiritual, really alive, at all. Thus it happens so often that a human being who fell so deeply for the promises of Lucifer's brother, the spirit of matter, that he, getting weaker and duller all the time, suddenly, even though he may not be aware of it, is in Lucifer's fangs because he cannot see anything else anymore other than matter with blindfolded eyes, and is unable to fight against the danger.

The enemy that you don't know is always more dangerous than the one of whose existence and nature you are well aware. Often it is sufficient that a human being does not search for God or walk on His path for Lucifer's brother to break in, which Lucifer himself would never succeed to do. You see there is basic truth in the statement of the question I answered even though you cannot say that there are three kingdoms. If I would say so, I would have to tell you of many more of which you don't know anything. Therefore it is safe to say that primarily all this is the battle between good and evil, the evil fighting against the good. Everything else is a subdivision.

QUESTION: I would like to ask a question about the sensitivity of animals. Although one says the human being is the highest developed creature on earth, which certainly is true, in certain areas the animal seems to be superior to man. For instance, I have always observed how sensitive animals are. The hunting dogs have a sense which man seems to lack entirely; or our cats, for example, I have observed that they run to the door long before they can hear the member of the family at the door, while when strangers pass by, they don't move. It is hard to understand how this is possible. What is the cause and reason?

ANSWER: Well, what you call instinct is nothing else than that sense to perceive what is not material. This sense is more strongly developed in the animal because the intellect is not yet fully developed as in man. The intellect is very important for man, especially for his development, because in it is the will force that has to be exercised. If, however, the intellect is the ultimate goal and not the means for a purpose, means to find God, then it is not well-channeled, and by overemphasizing its importance, it causes a disharmony in man, and the other senses wither. Especially in your days, this is the case. It would be necessary to make up for this lack. If this is not done, man will have to bear the consequences. But man will also have to bear the consequences if he neglects his intellect, as it was the case in previous times and some people still do. If the animal still has this sense which most human beings lack, then it is because it needs it to compensate. Man

could also make much more use of these forces if he could create the right balance and make his intellect the instrument for higher means. This too will happen one day. You will observe that in the so-called primitive countries this gift is much more developed. This should answer your question. However, this question opens further, interesting viewpoints which I would like to discuss in this connection.

Imbalance of the soul, the sickness of your time, if I may say so, has stirred on the earth technical and scientific progress, which, however, does not keep in step with spiritual progress. If God has given you human beings the intellect, then He did so that you can make your own decisions. I go this or that way, I decide for this or that. This can also be applied to the spiritual life and the spiritual attitude. It is a free will decision, but this free will decision is made by the intellect.

If such a decision is made in the right way, then the instinctive extrasensory perceptibility (including psychic unfoldment) will be awakened and as well developed as the intellect. It depends only on the direction into which man channels his intellectual force. It is functional and natural, as the flux of wisdom provides in the divine laws in order to harmonize the entire spiritual psychic organism of man, and progress follows. Or man deviates which causes disharmony, and thus the feeling of unhappiness is the consequential result. Be fully aware that the intellect is an important means to reach the highest spiritual level. Do not deny its importance. But be also aware in which manner the intellect should be used, in what direction it should go and whether you are using it as a selfish means or as a means for a higher purpose.

Take my words in answer to your question as food for thought. Ask (1) do I compensate harmoniously? Do I give this instinct, or whatever you may call it, sufficient consideration? This sense can just as well be cultivated and developed as the intellectual force of man. Do I smother this sense with my intellect (which is a limited faculty of man)? (2) Do I apply the intellect where necessary and for the purpose for which I was bestowed with it? If you consider and channel your intellectual forces in this manner, you will be able to balance your life in the complete way. You will fulfill the purpose of your present existence fully, and thus you will live in deep contentment and peace with yourself. Otherwise the conscience of man will never let him get to peace and inner contentment. Do you understand?

QUESTION: No, I don't understand what you said with regard to the animals. Why can animals on the twelfth floor feel that a family member is approaching the house? How is that?

ANSWER: Imagine a clairvoyant who has the gift of seeing things that take place outside your room, at a different time and in another dimension. The clairvoyant can see what will happen in the future as well as what happened in the past, of which his mind does not know anything. He can also see what is happening at the present time at a different location without being physically present. He does not see with human eyes. He sees with the spiritual eye or hears with the spiritual ear. That's how it is with the animal. Do you understand?

QUESTION: Then a clairvoyant can see, for instance, when somebody is entering the house or so?

ANSWER: Sometimes, not always, but when a spiritual vibration touches or harmonizes, it is picked up. An animal does this. Take your cat, she is quite attuned to your vibration, harmonized

by love. When you reach a certain radius, the animal picks up your vibration although she cannot yet see you with the physical eyes, but her spiritual eye or ear or nose perceives the familiar vibration. You find this in a clairvoyant or a clairaudient or otherwise mediumistic person who perceives with the spiritual psychic organs, as opposed to only with the physical ones.

QUESTION: I would like to ask a question of a scientific nature. I have a friend who is a scientist, and he said that it is more than just a hypothesis that humanity was once before on such a high level, if not higher than nowadays, in an earthly sense, not spiritually, I mean, and that atomic energy was at that time undoubtedly already known, that the world had come to an end, so to speak, several hundreds of thousands of years ago. Is that true?

ANSWER: Yes, that is true. As you rightly say, humanity was not on the level of development spiritually where they should have been according to their technical progress. When the discrepancy between the earthly and the spiritual development is too wide, then certain events have to take place because otherwise it would constitute a danger. This happens as a natural consequence, and God does not prevent such events because the spiritual danger would be much more consequential than the earthly catastrophe could ever be. It is nothing to lose your earth life compared to losing spiritual life. The effect follows the causes. When God interferes, He only does so when it does not constitute a danger to the spiritual life. Often spiritual annihilation can only be avoided by an earthly one. History has shown this often. Only when the spiritual development -- the back to God -- is included, then the living and positive circle is rotating. The negative, dead currents annihilate.

QUESTION: God had seven sons, and we know only of three, at least I do: Christ, Lucifer, and this Ahriman. Who were the others?

ANSWER: The seven sons are Christ, Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Lucifer, and the other one.

QUESTION: The archangels?

ANSWER: Yes. Now, my dear ones, who has decided already whether you want to start with this class of which I have spoken in the beginning? I will ask each one of you, and each one should answer honestly. Don't feel forced in any way. Well, then we will start the next time.

QUESTION: I don't have difficulties with the problem of free will. I understand it in my way, i.e., that I have the free will not to commit capital crimes, such as theft and murder. But the meaning of free will is whether or not it suits me personally to do the right thing or not, and that, one already knows more or less.

ANSWER: That is true. You can know if you really want to, but often man does not want to find out because the answer does not suit him. Very frequently, the spiritual duty does not agree with what man wants! There it involves what I said the last time. Free will must include responsibility, duty, and self-discipline; otherwise free will is a danger, and catastrophes may happen, as referred to above. I don't need to repeat because I outlined in detail in my last lecture these things, and I advise you to study it again because sometimes you don't comprehend fully at once.

QUESTION: After the last session, I have, for the first time since I have belonged to this group, experienced that when one opens oneself and asks for spiritual help, an answer is received right away when one is lucky enough to think of it.

ANSWER: This is not luck in the sense of chance or accident. It is also a training which you can further by daily resolution, as anything else.

QUESTION: Yes, but I only learned it now. Is this what you will teach us in this class, that which I just now learned?

ANSWER: Yes, exactly. And I tell you it may happen to each one of you in a different way. It depends on the individual traits and trends, talents and characteristics. Everyone will experience it differently.

QUESTION: With the animals, it is similar to blind and deaf people who have these senses more developed than other people?

ANSWER: Yes, quite true. It is a compensation, similar to that of the animal.

QUESTION: When man experiences certain things again and again so that it becomes a pattern, should it not be assumed, unless it is something evil, that such difficulty may be sent by God?

ANSWER: No difficulty is actually sent by God, my dear ones. But God has created the laws in such a way that man has to overcome these self-created difficulties, whether they are karmic, i.e., the roots stem from a previous life, or whether they were created in this life.

QUESTION: But how can one dissolve these difficulties?

ANSWER: That is a good question. In that, you don't get tense trying to remove these difficulties, but first accept and confirm them as a just consequence even if you cannot see the root readily, and know that God is just and wants to lead you as quickly as possible to happiness even if it is a stony road. Ask God with all your might to show you whether you can already, in the present life, change things, and how. If all your efforts are directed towards the spiritual life and soul development, then you will be able to dissolve many knots, even a heavy karmic lot. And this contact is supposed to help you with it so that you learn that which is necessary to establish a contact with God's world yourself. Then you will have the necessary recognitions; that I can promise you. First you have to meet the fundamental requirements which are the necessary time and effort on a regular basis to overcome all personal resistances, whatever they may be. Then you will recognize, step by step, why you need to master such a heavy lot. When man aims at learning spiritually, not looking for comfort alone, at developing and overcoming, then recognition will come. When man is willing to learn from the difficulties instead of trying to remove them superficially, then you will see the light.

Learn to see that any difficulty does not only have a cause but also a purpose. Purpose and cause are closely connected; they are interrelated. Learn that every difficulty may serve, if man wants it, to liberate and elevate him. It only depends on the attitude you take facing the difficulties, what

you are willing to make of them, how you approach them. That is a matter of man's free will. You will learn to discriminate where you, by changing certain actions, can already bring on improvement and where not. In the latter case, it is necessary to learn not to get tense and run emotionally against a wall, i.e., to accept that which is not so easy at times. In the first case, it means discipline, i.e., to do that which seems to be most difficult.

QUESTION: The difficulty is, however, that one does not know which of the two alternatives is the right one?

ANSWER: This recognition will be given to you on this path. This you will be able to find out, as many other things, and you will find it out if you sincerely try. For instance, if I would give you the answer to such questions, you would not accept it if it was not convenient for you or if you were all locked inside.

Whoever will open his inner doors will quite certainly receive an answer himself from his spirit friends. And I would like to help you open your doors in these classes.

Now, my friend, go in peace. God's blessings be with you all. Be in God.

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