

Pathwork Guide Lecture No. 20
An Unedited Lecture
January 1, 1958

GOD: THE CREATION

Greetings in the name of the Lord! Blessed are all of you; blessed is this hour. My dear friends, most of you believe that when I hold a lecture that I, freely and arbitrarily, choose the subject myself on my own authority. But this is not quite so. I think it will be interesting for you to hear once a little bit how a subject is chosen and what is done in the spirit world about your little community. In the first place, you must understand that, as a counterpart for your community on earth, which is little by little growing larger, there exists a considerably greater community in the spirit world which governs everything pertaining to your community. This organization in the spirit world is helping, guiding, deciding many factors you know nothing about but still in connection with all of you on a much wider scope than any of you realize. There is not the slightest coincidence, not even as far as people are concerned who come here once and do not stay because they lack either the spiritual maturity to understand what is going on or because they do not want to develop spiritually and walk this path of perfection for which a continuous supply of spiritual food is necessary. At the beginning, more people who fall into this category are coming here; but, as I said, this is not mere coincidence. There is a purpose and a reason for this. I can only touch on these reasons ever so briefly now. Until the friends belonging to the inner circle who actively help to build this community have proven themselves sufficiently in many of their weaknesses, the presence of people who cannot as yet fully appreciate this communication with God's world is a test for them. Every test and trial results directly or indirectly from one's own imperfection, and its purpose must inevitably also be to learn from it and thus to strengthen the individual weakness. You who belong to the inner circle have a great responsibility, and therefore you must become strong. And this can only be accomplished through all sorts of happenings, even seemingly unimportant and apparently coincidental ones. He who really walks the path actively and with open eyes will observe and test everything that happens to him in the course of the day so that he may further learn about himself. In the measure as you spiritually and emotionally grow stronger and lighter and more perfect, not only your personal conflicts will diminish, but the character and spiritual development of most people joining your group will change. So, you see, it is not mere chance that, always at the beginning, the majority of people coming to you are not of the caliber you may desire. But you have noticed that this has begun to change already, and it will change even more as time goes on. At the same time, people who fall under the above category and approach you at the beginning of such a community are not guided here at random either. They may have certain merits from previous lives -- or the same life, for that matter -- through which they deserve a special help and guidance to enable them to progress spiritually farther and faster. But it must be left, always according to law, to their own free will to accept or reject that help. And in spite of these merits, they often lack the otherwise necessary spiritual maturity to accept this help. Nevertheless, the chance should be extended to them. If they grasp it, it means a great victory for them, and thus for the world of God. If they do not, their rejection serves the good purpose of necessary testing and learning for those people who have strong arms and shoulders, spiritually speaking, in order to be worthy of the great fulfillment awaiting them.

by Eva Broch Pierrakos

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So there is no coincidence! Not one of you has come here just by coincidence, even though you yourself may think so -- it appears to you like that. By chance you have heard of this and have come here, and you come because of the experience or even out of curiosity. And yet, there is a lot more to it than that. Others, who might have come for the same reasons that you may have come, to begin with, never hear of it, never have an opportunity. All this is determined by the organization in the spirit world that governs you: who should be chosen and who should be by-passed, at least at this time. Particular spirits whose task it is and who are trained for this work are being sent out to scout, to consider all pertaining factors of the individuals in question. And if it shows in a case that a person should join you, should at least be given the chance, then these spirits get in touch with the respective guardian spirits who guide their protégées to someone else in your circle and who inspire that person to perhaps propose the idea of joining your group. This will give you a vague idea how much work and care is involved, even concerning the smallest details.

Also, the choice of the subject of the lectures necessitates a considerable amount of work in the spirit world. The appropriate subject at the appropriate time is not always easy to determine, and I personally could not possibly do this alone. You have not the vaguest idea what a world of order and organization God's spirit world is! The efficiency of the spirits trained expertly for their particular tasks, the teamwork involved, is something that surpasses your comprehension. For instance, there are a number of more exalted spirits above me in the scale, whom I have to consult for the selection of a subject, for the advice given to certain individuals as well as various other decisions. On the other hand, these spirits also take my opinions, my experiences, and my advice into consideration. I have a number of helpers whom I am sending out or who are helping with other tasks in connection with the building of your community. From all these reports coming in from spirits involved with this work, a commission, let us call it, then decides finally on each subject and how far I may go in answering certain questions that may come up unexpectedly. These decisions are made on the basis of a great number of factors involved where all the pertaining laws are to be considered. It is a sort of bookkeeping work, if I may call it that for lack of a better expression, where painstakingly many details have to be considered and weighed. You have no idea how much work there is involved in our world regarding this community of yours; how much there has to be considered, and also concerning the future, how difficult it is to determine that certain information given too soon may be harmful for some of the listeners and readers, while the same information may be useful for others for their progress; in other words, to find ways and means to further the progress of each individual belonging to your group by just the right amount of spiritual food at the right time; and, at the same time, to plan ahead wisely for the future of this group as a whole. You, in your world, are so blind. You only recognize what is right in front of your eyes. You do not realize that often a truth heard too soon can be more harmful than heard too late. Yes, my friends, this is so! On the other hand, for other people it may be of imperative importance to hear a particular truth or spiritual law at a particular time. In such cases, this information to be given has to be worded in such a way that it will not be understood by those not ready and mature yet. This may give you the vaguest idea of your counterpart organization in the spirit world, which is deeply involved with many details you ignore completely; which is working with love, care, and wisdom to guide everything to the best advantage of all concerned -- also for those you do not even know as yet and who will join you in the future. To compute all this data demands trained experts, unceasing efforts, foresight, and the thorough knowledge of divine law in all its workings, as well as great devotion to God and His great plan of salvation. For the growth of your community in its proper way is of imperative importance in the plan and of deeper significance than most of you

sense. With these explanations, you may understand that what first appeared to you like a chain reaction of coincidences is nothing else but a great guidance put in action. Thus you may also grasp that the inner picture of each person coming here has been taken into account up to the smallest details and that not only the subjects of the general lectures are determined by all these details put together, but also the how of certain explanations, how a certain subject is treated. You will understand that I do not come here and freely choose a subject. Whenever man has succeeded to be in contact with God's world, it never happens in such a way because too much has to be considered and is at stake of which you know nothing.

I have said last time that I will talk about the fall of the angels. In order to do this effectively so that you may understand as much as any human being is capable of understanding, I have to discuss it in this order: God, the creation, the fall of the angels, and the plan of salvation. Even though I can only touch on these subjects in the briefest and most condensed way, you will readily understand that I cannot possibly fit all of this into one lecture. It may take perhaps two, three, or even four lectures altogether. In my last lecture I have made a beginning with an explanation about the spirit of Jesus Christ, which is an integral part of these subjects. We will see how many lectures it will take to cover the above-mentioned subjects. I will condense it first in the briefest possible form and may later on add certain supplementary factors. Of course, I will have to mention a few things that have been discussed already in the past and that my older friends already know. This is unavoidable not only because of those friends for whom it will be new, but also because it will give an overall picture in a consecutive way. And I do wish to stress most emphatically that this touches the greatest questions in existence, and therefore it is most difficult to present it in such a way that it can be somehow grasped even by those who are spiritually advanced. Thus you should not try to absorb what you hear with your limited intellect alone; this would not get you anywhere. But you should try to listen with your heart, with your soul, with your innermost senses, so that you may feel the truth rather than understand it intellectually. Only this will give you real understanding, or, rather, it may be the material with which to lay the seed for enlightenment. Furthermore, I would like to request you, my friends, not to ask any questions pertaining to this subject before this series is over because many of the questions you may want to ask in connection with it will answer themselves when I will have finished with this subject for this time. But I would like to suggest to you that you note your questions, whatever it is that may occur to you in the meantime, and when I have finished, you regard these questions again and whatever has not been satisfactorily answered to you, whatever is not clear, you ask afterwards.

So I will begin about God! What can I possibly tell you about God, my friends? He is so great that it is something that can never be put into words. And particularly for a human being, it is impossible to sense, to perceive, let alone, to know what God is. I only want to say this much about the Creator: God is personality, as well as principle. Human religions and human philosophies have always debated this question. One opinion holds that God is person. The other holds God is not of substance, God is principle and force only. As I said already: both are true. God in His male aspect is creator and, as such, a person. The male aspect is the creative one, not only with God, but originating from Him as a principle in the universe and with all beings. In this capacity decisions, dispositions, determinations can be made. In this capacity, God, as creator, as personality, created the universe with all its laws and created other beings, although the latter in conjunction with the divine female aspect. When it is being said that God created His children in His image, it is meant that all divine aspects reoccur in lesser degree with these created beings. Thus the creative ability exists also to some extent in every being. This divine substance which God has to a maximum

degree, which Christ has to a lesser degree, yet to a greater degree than all other creatures, can best be described as a fluid substance of the most radiant matter that is imaginable. It is the life force. God, as well as all creatures in their highest form of development, can, so-to-say, dissolve this substance, these fluids, so that the compact personality becomes a flow, a principle, a divine stream, which does not mean the annihilation of individuality as a thinking being, capable of making decisions. In this state, the divine female aspect is prevalent. It is the state of being, the state of slow growth and organic building. Whenever God wills it so, the fluids may be retracted so that His male aspect becomes prevalent again. The same holds true for all created beings in their highest state of development. If their female aspect is prevalent, they merge with God in a state of being. With their male aspect prevalent, they help in the creation, according to the will of God, to divine law. I realize that all this is impossible for you to really understand. It may be just a beginning for profounder insight to come. Even the highest spirits cannot fully grasp the love, wisdom, and perfection of God and the infinite variety of His creation. We can only stand in awe and rejoice and praise Him!

As I said in my last lecture, God put forth as His first creation the spirit of Jesus Christ. As I said above, most of this divine substance is in Christ. Therefore, some religions refer to God, the Father and God, the Son. You can see that there is truth in it, although it is error that it is one and the same person. After that, many other creatures came into existence, so many that you could not count them with the numbers you have available in your world. Once I have been asked, "Why did God create all these beings? For He, being all-knowing, must have realized that misery may result from it?" This is such a very important question that goes so deep that I would like to touch briefly on this subject. God is love, and love must share. This is the nature of love. Of course God realized that by creating beings with free will, they may decide with this free will in such a way that misery may come into existence, at least temporarily. Nevertheless, and this is just the greatness of God, He created beings who could choose freely with the power endowed to them. They either would have the wisdom of not abusing their power and living within the perfection of divine law in a state of eternal bliss, or should they decide otherwise, they would finally come to comprehend all the better the perfection of divine law after their having gone through the Valley of Death and thus be more Godlike than ever, afterwards. The temporary misery for those who might decide wrongly is nothing compared to the bliss and happiness of eternity after the self-inflicted misery has been gone through. The scales show this so clearly that a spirit does not even have to be very high in development to recognize this fact.

So God created many beings and many worlds long before a material world existed: worlds of harmony, happiness, infinite beauty, and infinite possibilities to unfold creative divine aspects for all beings. Here, the divine substance of each created being was freely active, uncovered by foreign, un-Godlike matter. I have often said to you that it is your task to uncover this divine substance, to free it of these God-opposed layers which rob you of your unity with yourself and with God. This divine substance is also referred to as man's higher self or divine spark. This is divine in every respect and possesses some of that divinity. It is also referred to at times as the Holy Ghost although this expression has caused a great deal of misunderstanding among human beings. The Holy Ghost is not one being, nor is it part of a threefold God in the sense it is often interpreted. It is simply the divine substance that every living creature has -- to some degree and to some extent -- freed of other substances or is still more covered by these other substances. So you can see that the idea of the Trinity has been often misunderstood, yet there is also a great amount of truth under the misunderstanding.

Now you will want to know how these foreign layers came to cover that divine substance that each being originally was. And this is the subject of the fall of the angels. (Another name for these pure, Godlike beings, or Holy Ghosts, is angels.) But before I go into that, I would like to mention that it is a great mistake to assume that this divine substance, existing in everyone, is God or identical with God, the Creator. God is a being and what you have in you is of divine substance and has many of the divine attributes although not to the same extent as God Himself. It is Godlike. Only this purified and freed substance within you is capable of uniting with God, of being one with God. No God-unlike substance can unite with Him. It is error equal to the ones cited before to confuse the Godlike substance in each created being with that of the Creator Himself.

Man often advances the idea that God should not have endowed His creatures with free will, for then the fall could never have happened. Or, at least, God should have interfered when it all started. But this is so shortsighted, so blind. Happiness can only exist for any created being to be in union with God. And to be in union with God, you must be of the same substance, endowed with the same aspects and qualities. Otherwise a union is impossible --even chemically this is so! Since God is freedom and freedom is one of the most important divine aspects, God's creatures must have this same freedom, otherwise they would be unlike God and thus incapable of being in union with Him. And this freedom, or free will and free choice, entails perforce the possibility to direct that free will contrary to divine law. In the right free choice and the abstaining from abuse of power lies divinity, lies love and wisdom and a number of further divine attributes. It is of utmost importance for all of you to grasp this idea, for then you will be able to answer many questions that you may not have understood so far.

God has also put into creation an infinite number of laws. These laws provided beforehand for the possibility to return to God if and when any of the created beings should misuse his power and freedom. These laws work in cycles which have to close; whatever happens, these cycles follow their stream, and the laws work in such a way that ultimately everything that once turned from God, away from divine law, will come back. The greater the distance from God, the more misery, for only in God and with God lies happiness. But just through this misery, the incentive arises all the stronger to return to God. This thought, too, lends itself very well for deep meditation. By grasping some of this truth, you may come to understand many things, so far hidden from you. If your eyes, your inner senses will be purified enough, you will recognize this law even in your daily lives, even in small incidents.

So, spiritual worlds existed for a very, very long time where all created beings lived in a state of bliss as you cannot imagine. For all creatures, the possibility existed, ever since their coming into existence, to choose freely to either live within divine law or to act against it. At one time, one spirit fell under this temptation. Symbolically you explain this in the story of Adam and Eve in Paradise. Actually this happened in a very different way although the idea was there. Perhaps you can comprehend some of this when you imagine that you may have a great power. You may know that to use this power in a certain way might be dangerous for you. As long as this power is not exploited, you may feel a curiosity as to what would actually happen if you did use it. This temptation becomes stronger and stronger. The stronger it becomes, the less you can think of means to counteract this temptation. You will not even have the intention to continue using it, you just want to try a little bit, just to see. And all theoretical knowledge you may have -- once tried, you may not find it possible not to be swept away by it -- dissolves under the growing weight of the

temptation. Once this one spirit succumbed to this temptation, he set something in motion that he could not change anymore, just as he had once known that it would but did not wish to remember when he did give in. The result was not an immediate change, but a gradual one. The change from harmony to disharmony took place just as gradually and slowly as your change from disharmony into harmony. The latter is evolution, the former could be called an evolution backwards -- and neither can ever happen suddenly. Here I would like to give you another example that may help you to understand by trying to feel when thinking of this example. Let us suppose a person is tempted to take a drug. He does not have the intention to succumb to it entirely. He, too, knows, as everybody does, that this would mean his ruin in every respect. But he thinks he can try just once, to see what it is like. But after this once, he cannot escape anymore. He is caught. This is a mild example of what I am trying to tell you, but the same principle reigns here. The same principle holds true to everything opposed to divine law. This one spirit who succumbed first, generated a power running in the opposite direction of divine law, but it was still the same power, only used differently. And with this power he could affect and influence many other spirits little by little -- but not all spirits. There was a division between those who succumbed and those who did not. With the former, the so-called fall of the angels thus began. In this process, every divine aspect turned into its opposite nature: harmony became disharmony, beauty ugliness, light darkness, wisdom blindness, love hatred and fear and egotism -- and union became separateness. Once wholeness split further and further, the more this "pull" proceeded. Thus evil came into existence.

I have once explained that the spiritual worlds are psychological worlds. That does not mean though that they are unsubstantial and formless. For only in your material world are thoughts and feelings abstract. In other words, a spirit creates the world he lives in, according to his state of mind. This state of mind automatically creates, as a reflex action, a sphere consisting of landscapes, houses, objects, etc. Thus only spirits of equal development can share a world, which in certain states of development facilitates life but therefore slows down development. When you keep in mind that your attitudes, your thoughts, your feelings, your opinions, your goals create your world, you will understand that the world of the highest spirits is beautiful and light, while the worlds of the fallen spirits became dark and ugly. And since the great plan has been put in operation, many worlds in between the dark and the light exist in various degrees of harmony and disharmony, according to the state of development the once fallen spirits have reached. Your material world is one of them.

Most of you know that the spirit in his highest degree of development combines the male and the female aspect. There is no separateness. I have also mentioned this at the beginning of this lecture. That man and woman exist on earth as separate entities is, as you will readily understand now, a result of this splitting. Therefore, each being has its counterpart. Man's urge to find the right partner is nothing else but the deep longing for reunion with the separated other part. Every being passes certain incarnations with his true double, or counterpart, because through the thus resulting happiness this entails, lies a duty to fulfill something. And certain other incarnations have to be gone through without this counterpart. In that, also lies fulfillment of a different sort. However, the latter does not mean necessarily to lead a life of celibacy. There may be other partners with whom not only great happiness can be built but with whom other duties may be fulfilled, karmas paid off, and so on. So if you pass an incarnation without your true double but have another partner with whom you have something to fulfill, do not think that your counterpart in the spirit world will be hurt or jealous because of the love you may give to your present partner. Oh no, things do not work out in this way in absolute reality. If you learn to give love, you come a step nearer to God, to

your fulfillment, to your liberation, and thus also to your counterpart, no matter how you learn it. Sex -- the urge for this kind of love -- is, in short, the longing for union with your counterpart so as to become whole again. It only depends upon how you direct this force.

Lower developed beings, like animals and plants and minerals, are still in a state of further splitting or division. Man's state, being split in half, so to speak, is the last form before reunion, as the one creature he once was, can take place.

The disharmonious worlds coming into existence through this division from God, through the so-called fall, are also called hell. These worlds simply reflect the state of mind of the creatures living there; that is, these spheres came into existence as a direct result of the state of mind of these beings. But hell is not just one sphere, but there are many spheres there just as there are many spheres in the divine world, or so-called heaven. When the fall took place, not all who participated came into an equal state of disharmony and evil. The degree was very individual and different. Thus, again as an automatic result, different spheres came into being within the world of darkness, always corresponding to the individual's state of mind. But on the whole, one can say that every divine aspect turned -- here more, there less -- into the opposite.

As long as complete purification has not been effected, some of the characteristics of this fall are still going on within a person to some degree. And it would be extremely useful for each one of you to delve into your soul and to clearly come to feel this and thus make it conscious. When you consider your individual faults, try to find the original divine aspect of it. For no fault could come into existence by itself. It is only a distortion of something that was once divine. You can find this divine aspect of your faults. Thus it will be so much easier to purify it, and, at the same time, you will lose your hopelessness about yourself. You will lose your inferiority complexes. But in order to do so, you must first find out what your faults are and face them courageously.

When these worlds of unhappiness gradually came into existence and the separation from God took place for a great number of beings, as I said before, Divine Law provided for the possibility to regain the happy state of existence these beings once were in. But certain decisions and changes had to be made, always according to the free will of the fallen spirits, either individually or as a group. This was also foreseen by God and provided for and left open at the time to effect at the proper time. All this is part of the plan of salvation for which God enlisted the help of all spirits who remained faithful to Him, as well as those who reached and are still reaching sufficient development after their fall, to help along. About this, I will talk to you next time. Think carefully of all I have said so far even though there is still some information lacking that will complete a basic picture for you. For even in this incomplete picture, you will find a number of questions answered if you take the trouble to think deeply, to meditate and ask God for His help in your ability to understand. When you have gained this understanding, you will be in a position to comprehend what this life really means, your reason of existence here, and what your personal task is in this life. For, in connection with this plan, there is no person who has no task! And whoever has peace of mind will have found his task. Whoever has not, has not found his or her place as yet. For your innermost self will give you the message whether you have found it or not, by the happiness or unrest it communicates to you. All you have to do is ask yourself. And if you still find unrest, haste, nervousness, lack of peace of mind, then ask God to help you to find it, to be open for it so that you can understand His guidance. And what may still be in the way between you and your complete fulfillment of your life task may be your personal development. It may be that you are blind about

some aspects of your own personality, and that stands in the way to your fulfillment. So do not look so far in finding the answers. Right in yourself are all the answers you need in order to conduct your life in a way that God will be pleased with you. So next time, I will go into greater detail of this plan of salvation in which Jesus Christ played a major role. Without Him, none of the fallen angels could come back. It is very important to understand this at a certain time of development.

And now, my friends, I am ready for your questions.

QUESTION: I already have my question answered by this lecture.

QUESTION: Does God have the power of foreknowledge, and if so, to what extent does He use this power?

ANSWER: God has certainly foreknowledge but not to the extent where the free will of the individual is concerned -- because He gave free will. If He knew beforehand what you may decide tomorrow, there would be no free will. Complete foreknowledge and free will of the individual cancel each other out. Certainly, God has foreknowledge to a very great degree, knowing His creation, His laws, their workings, the infinite possibilities of the free decisions of His children, and also knowing better than anyone the character and personality of all His children. His infinite wisdom coupled with all this knowledge enable Him to foresee to quite an extent and thus make His plans. Even a created being, even a human being, knowing someone else very well can assume, according to the given circumstances and his characteristics, he may act in a certain way in a certain situation. But it cannot be foretold with accuracy. God knows certainly that all His creatures must come back to Him at one time because of the perfection of His laws, but He does not know whether a person may, for instance, change his attitude today or tomorrow. By the same token, as I have explained in this lecture, God could not have known with absolute certainty whether some of His children would misuse the power He has given them or how many would do so. The possibility was there, yes, but He did not know with certainty that this abuse would occur. God will use His knowledge and power only insofar as it does not break His own laws. This is very important to realize, and it is understood by too few human beings. Often man says, "Why does not God do such and such? All this misery would not be necessary," and so on. Then God would go against His own laws, and since his laws are perfection, that would not be a perfect action. Whether or not a blind human being can comprehend that God's ways are the best does not matter. At some time, this blindness will disappear, and then the recognition will come that God and His laws are perfect and one's own perfection can only be reached by going through the self-inflicted misery. Is that clear?

QUESTION: What regulates the consequences, good or bad, to overtake the individual within the same life or in karma in a next life?

ANSWER: The more a person is on the spiritual path of self-development, the higher a person is spiritually developed, the sooner the consequences will occur. The less development, or if a person does not go on this path, the longer it will take. And there is a very good reason for this. This, too, is according to law. The faster you go upwards, the faster the law works. One of the reasons is this: a person who is on the path and has gained a certain degree of spiritual knowledge and perception will understand cause and effect in his own life. A person who is not on the path will not understand it anyway, and therefore it does not matter whether the consequences occur in

this life or the next because the cause will not be traced back anyway, as a person on the path will learn to do. At the same time, a person not on the path is spiritually weaker, and thus the consequences may be too much to bear all at once. They are sort of distributed to make it easier, while the person on the path automatically develops so much strength that he can get it over with sooner. And the fact that he can tie up cause and effect and thus learn to understand himself better so as to purify himself more effectively will help him tremendously. To know why one has to go through something is always easier than not to know. But this help is a sort of a premium the person on the path has earned through his efforts. I think everyone walking on the path will confirm that wherever and whenever he deviates from his path or makes only the slightest mistake, the repercussion sets in almost immediately; while a person of whom less can be expected seems to get away with so much, but, believe me, not forever, only until the next life. The more you are on the path, the faster the signs and repercussions will appear, and for this you should be grateful. It is indeed the grace of God that has made it so, for thus you have the opportunity of settling your account at once and correcting your mistakes before you can make any graver ones by a wrong cycle set in motion.

QUESTION: Pertaining to the first question and answer, I would like to ask, is it then to be inferred that the power of God is relative?

ANSWER: Oh no! No, that does not mean it is relative. God has absolute power! His power is not relative or limited because He does not overstep His own laws. He holds His laws, only some of His created beings do not hold them. It is not a lack of power if you do not use the power you have. Quite on the contrary! This is not weakness, but strength!

QUESTION: I would like to ask about the development of will power and self-control.

ANSWER: I will gladly answer this question. Will power can only be developed when you fully understand the importance of it and what is at stake. A person will not use his dormant will power when he does not know how important it is to have it. Everybody can observe the following: when a person is in a grave danger, all of a sudden he will display a tremendous will power and strength way beyond him ordinarily because he then realizes his life is at stake. He has to have it, otherwise he is lost. Yet in things which do not seem important or actually are not important, this very same person will not have any will power whatever. So it is first a question of understanding and of discrimination. To discriminate clearly and concisely, to formulate the ideas precisely, is the first step to take. When you will know what stands on one side and what on the other, what is the issue, you will be able to make a wholehearted decision through and through, and this is the next step to develop your will power. Everyone has will power. Will power is nothing else than a force, a strength that is used by many in the wrong direction. When the strength evaporates in wrong channels, not enough remains that will power may be generated for what really counts. How much strength is lost by fears, by resentment, by hatred! For each personal fault takes up a certain amount of strength. Each fault is a chain that binds you and against which you subconsciously strain. Consciously you may also strain against other things, which also takes strength from you, for strain is a negative force. But subconsciously every individual strains against his or her own faults and imperfections. This is the wrong way to get rid of one's faults. So, to come back, the first step always is to ask yourself, "What do I want to have will power for?" When you ask yourself this question clearly, you can give yourself an equally clear answer. When the answer is that you somehow wanted will power for something that is not worthwhile without consciously having

realized this before, then it is only advisable that you do not use your strength and will power in that direction. So many people, firmly convinced that they have no will power, use valuable strength unconsciously all the time for the most destructive uses, and then they lack the necessary strength for the one and all important reason: namely, their self-development and purification, the going on the path of perfection! Whoever does that, will sooner or later solve all his problems and conflicts, which have arisen only out of the inner conflicts. In that path lies the key to everything else a person needs and wants to accomplish that is good to be accomplished. Once you have understood what the reason of this life is, you will be able to make the best of this present incarnation. Only when he understands the issues at stake will a person pull himself together, so to speak, and get organized inside. Will power is also a question of inner organization, planning wisely, planning in a way that you do not take upon yourself more than you can follow through, and yet planning enough that is necessary for your development. Will power is also a question of making the right inner decisions and sticking to them; living, at least in this respect to begin with, in some sort of inner order; discriminating and weighing. Once a person understands that everything else in life, the inner as well as the outer problems, is only the result of this spiritual neglect, the right decision will be taken whereby the necessary strength will be released. This may entail the relinquishing of other efforts, also inner effort, which are much more important than outer ones, which will enable you to put your whole concentration and efforts into these channels. So I would say, basically it is a question of understanding. Now, it is very often that a person's lower self does not want you to understand what it is all about. It constantly furnishes excuses, "reasons," pretexts, why one cannot do what is so important. These are rationalizations, and the surface mind accepts them because it is the line of least resistance. So you have, first of all, to go to battle against your own lower self; and this lower self, this foreign substance, this undivine substance is always at war with your divine substance. And only your surface mind with your free directive will can determine which self you want to follow; only by becoming aware of these inner selves can you settle this fight. So it is also a question of knowing what is really going on within you. And once this is understood, the courage can be summoned to face your own lower self and to go to battle against it instead of always giving in to it. No one should think that when I mention the lower self, that this is necessarily something dreadfully sinful or wicked. Oh no, with so many, and all of you here, you have long, long ago passed this state of development where your lower self belonged to that category. But as long as a lower self is still in existence -- and with every human being it is -- it is still opposed to God, to His laws, and to the Godlike substance within you which wants to go forward, which wants the way of perfection, while the lower self constantly holds back. It is lazy, it does not want to change. This is its most significant quality and more important even than all individual faults. This is the same with everyone without any exception. He who has conquered his lower self -- at least in the respect that it has understood once and for all that it has to give in, that you, your directive personality has chosen and determined that path of perfection on which you conquer your lower self -- he is, indeed a happy person!

My dear friends, I want to bless each one of you here and all of your dear ones. Take this blessing, for it is again something of substance and reality, even though you cannot see it. Take this strength and harmony with you, let it work for you so as to go to battle against your lower self, for this is what life on earth is all about. Be in peace, be in God!

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