

Pathwork Guide Lecture No. 62
An Unedited Lecture
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MAN AND WOMAN

Greetings, my dearest friends. Blessed is this evening, blessings for each one of you.

The original spirit as first created was male and female in one. When development will be completed with the fallen beings, it shall be one again. As one of the by-products of the fall, the original being separated and split, as I stated before at various times. The lower the development, the more the original being is split into more parts, so to speak. In mankind, development has reached a stage where the split is twofold. It manifests in the existence of the two sexes: man and woman.

The aim of development is to find the way back into the original unity, or oneness. On the earth plane, one particular aspect of development is union between man and woman. The mating of the sexes has therefore a deeper meaning than merely procreation. In the relationship between the sexes so much can be overcome, so much can be learned. Development can proceed better than in any other way, in certain respects. Love, kindled by Eros and the sex impulse, can flower easier than in other relationships -- and love is always the ultimate aim! But relationship between the sexes also offers more hurdles and frictions than any other relationship because personal emotions are more involved. Therefore objectivity and detachment are lacking to a greater degree than in other human relationships. Hence, marriage is, on the one hand, the most difficult of all relationships, but, on the other, the most fruitful, the most important, and the most blissful one.

Ever since the human race came into existence, certain misconceptions and mass images in connection with this subject came into existence as well. Superficially seen, there seems to be a great difference between man and woman. However, in reality the difference is not half as great as you think. For, each man carries inside his soul the female side of his nature, and each woman carries the male side of her nature within her soul. It is as though they contain a facsimile, an imprint of their other halves, living somewhere in the universe. However, this imprint is not merely a picture-reproduction, but it is a living and real part of the nature of each personality. This hidden part is somewhat like the other side of the coin. Now you must not imagine that the male part in the female and the female part in the male is exactly hidden while the other half is open. Picture a disc which slides occasionally more to one side and then to the other, and you will get nearer the truth.

The existence of the live imprint of the other half in each soul accounts for the constant longing and searching for union with the other sex, for companionship and love with the other sex, and it is also the origin of the sex drive as such.

This live imprint of the other half also accounts for supposed male trends in the female and supposed female trends in the male. The more flexible this "disc" is, the more these opposite trends

manifest. The more rigid it is, the less they manifest. This, however, does not mean that they do not exist. The healthier a soul is and the less influenced by mass images in this respect, the more the "opposite" qualities will unfold in a healthy and constructive way, harmonizing rather than conflicting with the accepted typical trends of the sex in question.

One of the most stubbornly maintained mass images in this respect is what constitutes manliness and womanliness. A man is supposed to be strong and a woman weak. A man is supposed to be intellectual and creative; a woman is supposed to be less intelligent, at best, but emotional as compared to the man. A man is not supposed to be intuitive and sensitive, while a woman is. A man is supposed to be active, a woman passive. These concepts and many more variations of them exist from the beginning of humanity to the present. There were times in certain cultures where the scale swung strongly to the opposite extreme -- as it happens today in some aspects -- but all extremes come out of rebellion and misunderstanding and must therefore be equally unhealthy and false. They must also lead back to the old alternative against which one has rebelled. It is only a question of time. The truth is that all these supposedly male or female trends exist in each person -- and have a right to exist. They do not diminish your manhood or womanhood, quite the contrary.

Broadly speaking, the effect of these mass images is twofold. In the first place, men and women suppress their "opposite" trends, feeling guilty and inadequate about them. Needless to say, this is extremely harmful in many respects. Secondly, these mass images have resulted in a deliberate overemphasis on the "allowed" trends, fitting to the sex in question. Therefore for centuries and centuries, man has developed and nursed his physical prowess, his intellectual capacity, his active side. At the same time, he has deliberately suppressed and discouraged the unfoldment of his emotional and intuitive nature. With woman, it was the reverse. The effect of this condition was and is a very unfortunate one to mankind as a whole but especially to the individual personality in whom is engendered a state of imbalance and disharmony, with the burden of guilt and inadequacy added. Technical advancement, overemphasis on science and intellect are the outcome of "man's world," with its neglect of soul qualities, to name but one important aspect. Needless to say, wars, revolutions, mismanagement of the world's riches are the result of it. No outer measure, regardless how clever, will remedy the world situation until and unless a balance of these forces are established in the individual soul. Not until it is recognized that both sides of the human personality have to be equally developed and understood will you find peace and some justice on this earth plane.

Woman, on the other hand, was long forced to suppress her intelligence and creativity. Intelligence and creativity that could be all the more constructive because it could be permeated with her intuitive power, her emotional side, the soul qualities of her nature. Whenever she sensed these "forbidden" qualities, she was quick to suppress them, not only feeling guilty, but also thereby guarding her own interests, or so she believed. The open acknowledgment of these traits would be at the price of man's love. This went on for so long and in so many crass aspects that she ultimately rebelled. This rebellion took the form of "emancipation."

Nothing healthy and constructive can unfold -- at least, not in the long run -- based on rebellion. Rebellion is revolution, and revolution is always opposed to evolution which is real growth. Real growth, or evolution, is slow growth and unfoldment, based on profound understanding of the self and the issue in question. Rebellion, or revolution, always hides an unrecognized anger at the self, projected on the outside world. Hence, the change brought about by

revolution or rebellion ignores something very vital about the self; and this ignorance prohibits healthy growth.

"Emancipation," apart from some healthy aspects where true growth was involved, is nevertheless based largely on rebellion. Where this is the case, the result is not successful. Woman's equalization to man has often really diminished her womanhood so that the upholders of the mass images seem to be correct. But it only appears that way because the opposite extreme is never the solution. The opposite extreme is always a result of rebellion and revolution and therefore ultimately leads back to the first wrong extreme. However, woman's inner message was to unfold her dormant qualities which she had wrongly suppressed for centuries and centuries. Only, she did not understand the message properly. She followed through, but due to her misunderstood rebellion, the outcome was not entirely successful.

Something similar happened to man. He, too, received an inner message. He did not follow it through as vigorously as woman, for he had less reason to. His position was better suited to play into the universal rulership principle of the infant in the human personality. Yet, the cosmic current sweeping the earth plane -- this cosmic wave which always tries to harmonize and establish balance -- also touched him. He was swept into it, but halfheartedly, and again without understanding what it was all about.

So it is quite true that man and woman are moving into the right direction, into the direction of harmonization, of unfolding the hidden and heretofore "forbidden" side in each. But mostly this aim is unclear, only vaguely felt and even less understood. It often mingles with personal distortions. The good aim often serves to hide behind and encourage erroneous motives. In woman it often serves to encourage her aggression and hostility; in man, weakness and dependence. When healthy motives are muddled with unhealthy ones and one lacks recognition of this fact, the outcome must always be a doubtful one. You know that from your personal work; it is no different in these universal questions.

Thus, the development of man and of woman has often turned out to be a bit freakish. "Emancipation" often resulted in actually making a woman less of a woman instead of making her more so by unfolding her intelligence, strength, activity, and creativity without the existence of rebellion. Rebellion and resentment cease automatically once the personal inner issue is completely understood.

With man, the process is somewhat as follows. For centuries he has developed one-sidedly, emphasizing his intellect, his resourcefulness, his physical strength, but thwarting his emotional and intuitive nature. Since that is an essential prerequisite for true inner strength, man has weakened at the core. By denying in himself that which he erroneously had thought to be unmanly and feminine, he became less of a man instead of more of a man. You can observe this in many ways. It is often noted that women are emotionally stronger than men. There is some truth in that for which I have now given you the explanation. There are also other manifestations, but we do not have to go into these details now.

Also, the increasing occurrence of homosexuality in both sexes is another aspect of the wrong approach, the misunderstood message of the soul to unfold the being's total nature, to develop his or her other side.

It is always the same whether it concerns this subject or any other: all healthy and strong soul currents, all inner and outer conduct according to the universal, spiritual law of love, truth, and justice are known to man in essence and principle. The message of the spirit is always given to each individual in what direction he is to go. He often follows that direction, but he misunderstands the necessary procedure of first finding all in him that deviates from the right principle. He vaguely feels his inner deviations and tries to superimpose the right way. It cannot work. If it is attempted in such a way, he will be driven by rebellion and compulsion, no matter how right the conscious motivations may be. This will cause the development to go into a wrong channel so that the result will be a "masquerade."

It is true that aggressive and hostile strength and activity in a woman will diminish her womanhood. But so do the suppression of her healthy strength, activity, and of her true creative powers serve as minus powers. It is true that softness in a man, based on his immature need for dependency, makes him weak and therefore less of a man. But the same thing happens if these reactions are hidden under a superimposed parody of manhood. In another sense, this weakens him even more. The goal must be the slow unfoldment of these qualities, bringing them into harmony with the rest of the personality. If man develops those qualities in him which are generally looked upon as being feminine, he will become more of a man, provided this development takes place without encouraging sick weakness and dependency patterns. And if woman develops those qualities in her which are generally looked upon as being masculine, she will become more of a woman, provided she does not use aggression, hostility, and rebellion as the "male" qualities she wants to further. The difference between man and woman is not as great as you think -- as I indicated some time ago, not even anatomically. It is as though you have the negative of a photograph and compare it with the positive. What is black in one, is white in the other, and vice versa.

To free yourself of these mass images and misconceptions, always based on your personal ones, is the only way to bring your whole nature into focus, into harmony. That alone will enable you to find unity on this earth to the fullest extent possible. This alone will enable you to have a successful relationship with the other sex, to make the marriage venture a meaningful and satisfying one. So much help and counseling is being offered in your time on this subject. Most of this help and advice is rather superficial because the basic facts are ignored or not fully taken into consideration. The better you understand the spiritual meaning and its significance, the more do you have a chance to understand and thus to solve your own problems.

It is no wonder that marriage is such a difficult venture and so often only half successful. For you cannot find union if each partner not only continues to develop one-sidedly, but encourages it as well, in the other as well as in the self, or if the side that should be brought out and developed harmoniously is used as a weapon behind which to hide. Whether it serves to cover either weakness and dependency or rebellion and aggression, the two cannot truly meet.

It is not true that man is active and that woman is passive by nature. Both have both. But both manifest different aspects of activity and passivity. The woman's activity should enliven and vibrate her passivity in the true and good sense. Her activity will prevent her passivity from stagnation, from becoming stale. It will keep it flowing and fluid, in perpetual motion as all truly spiritual qualities must be. With man, his active currents should bring his passivity to the fore,

preventing the active current from becoming aggressive, rounding and mellowing it, taking the edges off it, and slowing down the abrupt and too quick motion of the overactive current. From an overall view, with both man and woman the same thing happens, only in each case the opposite side is turned out, so to speak.

The same holds true of other supposedly male and female aspects. I will only touch upon this briefly. It will suffice to give you some food for thought and urge you to continue on these deliberations by yourselves. Without the soul qualities of love, kindness, and intuition that open the road to understanding, intelligence and reason are as nothing and will bring no really constructive result in any area whatsoever. On the other hand, love, kindness, and intuition, unkindled by discrimination -- a result of reason and intelligence -- will easily be lost in wrong channels and finally become destructive. In some ways, it may even be self-destructive. Much more could be said about the necessity of melting the supposed male and female qualities. One without the other will always result in an unhealthy exaggeration, in a stalemate, in something harmful. Only both together can make a harmonious whole in the individual entity.

Some of the things I have said are already quite evident and do not seem new. Other things I mentioned may be difficult to understand. But if you use your imagination when meditating upon it, you will feel the truth -- and that is a lot. It is sometimes much more than the flat understanding of the intellect.

As humanity stands today in its overall development, the venture of marriage is a very difficult one. This is due in part to those conditions I have just discussed, and also to the individual's personal inner conflicts. But both factors together are responsible. It will take hundreds and hundreds of years before humanity will have reached the point when most marriages will be truly successful. Nevertheless, or I might say, this is all the more reason for trying it now and making the best of it and learning from it -- for there is so much in marriage. It cannot and should not be forced. Conscious desire should not be enforced because of my words, when unconscious fears and blocks are still unrecognized and unsolved. This could not bring a happy solution. But in your self-development, wherever you stand, whatever your situation is in this respect, you can investigate your particular difficulties and try to keep in mind how these general misconceptions and mass images influences sustain and strengthen your personal images and wrong conclusions.

In connection with this subject, there exist many particularly wrong conclusions which are also partly derived from mass images. These are firmly engraved in many an individual personality. To name but one now: love is weakening and dangerous. With such an unconscious concept, marriage will be more adversely affected than any other human relationship.

I have touched upon this vast subject only in the broadest outlines tonight. Needless to say, there are many aspects to be discussed in the future. You will then see that all details that we may consider later are contained in the points mentioned tonight. We will merely elaborate and connect them. We will close the circle between personal and mass images. This will also have to be done in the personal work. Let this just be a rough sketch of the picture we shall slowly complete together.

It would be particularly constructive to devote more time on discussions and questions, also with regard to tonight's subject. Let us hope that my words help you to actively participate in such a mutual exchange.

QUESTION: Could you elaborate on what exactly is meant by "union." Just what does it entail?

ANSWER: The concept of union can be discussed on two levels -- I mean as far as our subject here is concerned. I do not speak now of union with God. In the highest sense, union is the melting and fusing together of two beings who were split. It is when two beings become one entity again. Union on this earth sphere between a man and a woman strives for the same end and attempts it to some degree inwardly. In rare moments it can happen. But all the layers of ignorance and fear soon erect a separating wall again. The aim of development as such is to destroy these separating walls, whether they stand between man and God, between man and spiritual truth and reality, between man and his fellow creatures, or between man and woman. Love is the only key to eliminate this wall. With love, understanding is open. And with understanding, oneness, or union can be achieved. But love cannot be forced. Love can only be gained by removing all blocks and errors in the human soul. Ego importance and preoccupation are directly opposed to love. But before the little ego can be removed, it has to be recognized in all its facets; it has to be allowed to come to the surface. Then and then only can the true personality evolve which no longer needs what the little ego seems to need. Then love can truly unfold -- and thereby union.

This holds true for all human relationships. Marriage, the love between two people, makes the attainment of union easier than in other relationships, such as friendship for instance. It is easier because it is nourished by eros and the sex impulse. Without these elements, the separation is more difficult to overcome; frictions cannot be mellowed as easily as with the existence of eros which is, as you know from a previous lecture, a bridge to love. On the other hand, a more casual relationship has less of a chance to bring out frictions. So in that sense, it is easier to maintain. We might sum up that marriage would be practically unfeasible for the human race if it had not the help of eros and the sex drive. The maintenance of these emotions toward the partner is therefore a goal in itself. I discussed this subject at a previous occasion.

In the plainest and simplest terms, union is finding together on as many levels as possible. There is much more to it than merely understanding the other, being in tune with him or her. It is a blending in of two people's physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual natures. It can be done if both have the will and the understanding of this.

What holds true for all human relationships and what I tell all my friends who are on this path certainly holds true even more so in marriage. Each friction and misunderstanding, no matter how flagrantly wrong one person may be, is an indication of something being distorted or ignorant in the self. In the ideal marriage, this would always be kept in view, and both partners would search for that element in themselves. They would then find that the other reacted, perhaps at times with undue vigor, to this one little part that is blurred, so to speak. The disharmonious part in one reacts automatically to the disharmonious part in the other. The two disharmonious parts are not always of equal strength, but that does not matter. If this key to marriage could be found, a real tuning-in can be accomplished. It would further self-development and, at the same time, because of it, would remove more and more the points of friction. The points of friction would become keys for tuning into one another. Thereby, true union is successfully attempted.

QUESTION: A few of us discussed why it is so difficult for men to communicate when there is an emotional problem between two partners. The women try to talk it over, and the men evade it. Is that the shame of the emotional side?

ANSWER: Yes, that is one reason. It is certainly connected with that subject. Man shies away from emotions, he is afraid of them, partly due to the rather frequent misconception I mentioned before -- namely that emotions are dangerous and if one cannot avoid them, one must somehow keep them a secret, at least when they bring negative results. Misunderstandings are negative results, therefore they are a reminder of this wrong conclusion. Man also shies away from communication partly due to these mass images which claim that it is beneath a man's dignity to enter into intellectual discussions with a woman who is supposed to be his inferior. This might be done on a neutral topic, but when personal guilts and inadequacies enter into the picture, which is inevitable in disagreements or quarrels, man is afraid he may not be able to cope with the woman and thereby jeopardize his masculinity. Since it is woman's nature to dwell on emotional subjects, on anything personal, she is "prepared," conditioned, and often better versed in this respect than the man. Thus the man is afraid of "losing." It appears to him that he not only loses the argument but also a part of his masculine dignity. Just because he has neglected to strengthen his emotional nature, he is afraid and guilty of the weakness he senses in himself.

On the other hand, it may often be the case that woman suppresses and hides aggression, hostility, and resentment for the man behind a "reasonable discussion," the aim of which is supposed to straighten out disagreements. It is well possible that the positive motive exists to a stronger degree than the negative one mentioned here, but it suffices to affect the corresponding subconscious layer of the man, which makes him react most negatively to something that was meant merely constructively, at least in the conscious mind of the woman.

QUESTION: But since this is almost a hindrance to union, could you perhaps help us as to how we should go about it?

ANSWER: Not by forcing it -- the only way you can go about it is not by convincing the other. Development and solution of problems can rarely happen that way, but rather by searching for that in yourselves which attracts a negative response. On this path, you have found some such incidents already even though the obvious wrong was on the other side, even though you never thought it possible that anything could be amiss with yourself, even though your rationalizations were most convincing and true. The more often you succeed in that, the nearer you are to the solution of all your inner and outer problems. If you find your hidden emotions, you will understand why other people respond negatively to something that you were convinced did not contain any but the purest motives. What I said before about marriage in this respect holds true at all times and for all instances.

QUESTION: Am I to understand that a woman should show signs of weakness so as to make the man strong?

ANSWER: No, quite the contrary. When you will reread this lecture, you will see that this was not implied at all. She should show her real strength, not being afraid of it. Then she will be able to use it constructively and not compulsively seek to hide it or to use it destructively by letting it out because of an inner rebellion which is not fully understood. Only in this way can she also help

man to unfold his real strength. If she were to make herself weak out of "diplomacy" or flattery, it would be a forced and ungentle reaction. Nothing compulsive and ungentle could ever be truly beneficial, not really. It would only affect an unhealthy, superimposed, and equally ungentle layer of the man in question.

QUESTION: But if a man doesn't communicate with a woman out of cowardice, what would be the corresponding feature to look for in the woman

ANSWER: You cannot generalize that. It might be any of so many alternatives. You can never make a general statement of this sort. That could be very dangerous and very misleading. It can only be found by the individual work. It could perhaps correspond to an overactivity in the woman, a mischanneled activity that was not allowed to develop freely. It could also correspond to a different kind of cowardice on another level in the woman in question. It may be any of a number of factors. It may not only be one factor but a combination of many.

QUESTION: What is the reason that we have two kinds of hormones?

ANSWER: The male and female hormones are a physical aspect of this entire subject. In fact, both sexes have both hormones. A woman could not live without male hormones, and a man without female hormones. This physical manifestation is a proof of both aspects existing in both sexes. It is the outer symbol. It is only a question of the proper balance and distribution.

I might add here that the general impression existed for a long, long time that only woman goes through certain cycles in life: the cycles of menstruation and the change of life. Man goes through similar cycles, only they do not manifest in the same way. When mankind will be more advanced along these lines, it will be found that these cycles are in man and by what principles they work. In order to find that, psychological progress has to keep in step with the spiritual and metaphysical. Each man will then be able to find his own cycle which works individually rather than by set rules as in woman. This will be a very useful recognition. Man's cycle changes according to the individual. It might be compared to the principle of an astrological chart that has to be made for each individual separately. It is similar in principle with this question. The rhythm of the cycles holds a great significance.

By the same token, it is not only woman who gives birth. Woman gives birth physically, while man can give birth in soul, so to speak. The same laws governing physical birth hold true for spiritual birth, for lack of a better expression. According to the health of his soul, the births taking place will be healthy or abortive.

QUESTION: What exactly is meant by this that man gives spiritual birth?

ANSWER: Man, in his real creative self, can give birth to beautiful and constructive ideas which can become useful and workable on all realms, not only in the physical world. Ideas, thoughts are alive. You have often heard the expression, but you take this as a figure of speech. In reality, the process of the birth of an idea takes place according to the same principles as physical birth. Since woman is also creative, she too can give spiritual birth -- and she does. It is only the female side in an entity's nature which is capable of giving birth. In woman, the female side is mostly and foremostly turned outwardly on the "disc" so that physical birth manifests. However,

this does not prevent her from also giving mental and spiritual births at other times when this facet may slide inwardly. (I realize this is hard to express, and therefore my words may often appear oversimplified when it comes to such matters.) Man, on the other hand, has the female, birth-giving side of his nature turned inwardly at all times. It is almost impossible to find the right words to explain these things to you, but it may open new vistas for you to broaden your understanding and perception even though my words are limited at best.

I retire again, my dearest ones, with blessings and love, with light and strength for each one of you -- you who are here and you who are away and read my words. Continue on your path, and it will free you forevermore. It will liberate you from your self-inflicted prison. Be in peace, be in God!

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