

COSMOLOGY OF THE PATH

from THE PATHWORK GUIDE LECTURES

(a precis) by Monica Rice Wendling

The Pathwork is a contemporary spiritual discipline. It is based on a body of inspired teachings brought by a spirit entity of surpassing wisdom who made himself known as the Guide. These teachings came to us in 258 lectures delivered through the channel of Eva Pierrakos from 1957 until her death in 1979.

The term “Pathwork” refers to the teachings, the ongoing work to practice and integrate the concepts and approaches set out in the lectures and the people who have joined together to support one another in the work. The Pathwork is the lectures, the work, and the community.

THE LECTURES

The lectures are the heart of the Pathwork. They cover a lot of ground -- from human relations, to meditation, to global responsibility, to spiritual guidance and divine love. They are united by a common goal for a greater life, a freedom in which blocks and resistance on all levels have been dissolved and all of life's energies stream through body and soul. They teach that we can all learn to open up the channel to our inner wisdom and hear our Godself speak. In this state, people -- alone and in community – have access to boundless knowledge, energy, pleasure and love. In this state, to give and serve is natural and effortless.

The lectures provide a conceptual frame for our work, the work of self-purification: the stripping away of illusions about ourselves, others, and the nature of reality; of defenses against love, commitment and change; of reluctance to assume full responsibility for our actions, thoughts and circumstances. It is a process of recovering the real self, the unified self which is both active and receptive, both empty and full, alone and related. The free self is responsible and joyous.

In the lectures, the Guide engages us on the nature and origin of good and evil, and shows how each manifests on the human level of consciousness. Spiritual growth is not only ceasing to create darkness through our resistance to the Universal Life Principle; it is also a matter of strengthening the manifestation of the good and ultimately transcending the duality of good and evil. The lectures are lucid and powerful in showing us how to reinforce our identification with the divine, to surrender to the life imperative.

Many of the concepts introduced in the lectures are truly revolutionary: they have the power to undermine the structure of habit and hopelessness and unleash tremendous energy for growth, for change, for service. The lectures are a roadmap for those who are called by a longing for a more truthful relationship with themselves and with life, and for whom self-purification is both a necessity and a pleasure.

THE GUIDE

#22, pg. 1 Communication with the Spirit World has always existed from the beginning of time when this earth sphere was relatively new. Then it was impossible for man to communicate with God's world, because there were still too many unpurified currents and attitudes in the soul, too many evil desires and too much blindness to fulfill the necessary conditions. That is why God has always sent beings on this earth who were not fallen spirits. Some of the great prophets and some of the so-called saints belonged in this category. They not only brought wisdom, love and purity with them in order to leave their mark on this earth sphere, but they were also able to communicate with the angels of God.

Angels of God have always had the opportunity to speak and to manifest to human beings. There are many who do not deny the possibility of such manifestations by undeveloped spirits, but they deny that a communication with higher developed beings should be possible. If a person denies any communication with an incarnated entity, this belief may be wrong, but at least there is something logical about it; but to admit one and deny the other is unreasonable, for the laws of nature and the universe must work alike for good and evil. It is only a question of what conditions are prepared and fulfilled.

#23, pg.12 Communication with the Spirit World of God existed at the time of the first Christians. Jesus was much too wise to suggest that any truth could be kept undiluted while spreading from one human being to another, from generation to generation. Christ knew that human failings are still much too great not to have errors and false interpretations slip in. There is also the danger of the twisting of truth by the forces of the World of Darkness, which will succeed as long as there are unpurified beings on the earth. Therefore, direct communication with the World of God is the only way possible. Unfortunately, human beings have – sometimes ignorantly and sometimes deliberately -- misinterpreted these words. If the Bible is read with true understanding and openness, you will find many instances where the sayings of Jesus cannot be interpreted in any other way.

#20, pg.5 This material which I am sent to present to you touches on the greatest questions in the universe, and therefore it is difficult to present it in such a way that it can be understood, even by those who are spiritually advanced. Thus, you should not try to absorb what you hear with your intellect alone, but try to listen with your heart, so that you may FEEL the truth, rather than understand it intellectually.

NATURE OF GOD

#17, pg. 1 There are very few people who have no belief in God at all. Almost everyone has at least a feeble belief in a Higher Intelligence, in a Superior Wisdom Who created this universe.

#52, pg. 6 In order to help you find the proper concept about God, I will try to speak about Him. But remember that words are always insufficient, and even more so when it concerns God, Who is unexplainable, Who cannot be limited into words. How can your perceptions and capacity to understand suffice to sense the greatness of the Creator?

#20, pg. 1 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.

#20, pg. 6 God is so great that it is impossible for a human being to sense, let alone to know what God is. I want only to say this much about the Creator: God is personality as well as principle. Human religions and philosophies have always debated this question. One opinion holds that God is person. The other holds that God is principle and force only. 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 as a principle in the universe and with all beings. In this capacity, decisions, dispositions and determinations can be made. God, as Creator, as Personality, created the Universe with all its laws, and created other beings; although the latter was in conjunction with the Divine Female aspect. The Divine Female aspect is the State of Being, and the state of slow growth and organic building.

#19, pg. 2 Now, who is Christ? There are some religions who claim He is God. This is not so, for he himself has said, as you can read in the Bible, that he is not God. He is not the Creator. There are some who say Jesus was just a teacher with great wisdom, like a few others history has known. This is also wrong. The truth is that Jesus, the man, was the incarnation of the Christ. And this Christ spirit is the highest, the most exalted of all created beings. He is the first, direct and inborn creation of God. His substance is the same as the substance of God. All of you possess some of this substance, but no other created being has this Divine Substance in quite the same degree as Christ.

#20, pg. 7 God put forth as His first creation the Spirit of Jesus 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 erroneous to consider them one and the same Person.

THE CREATION

After the creation of Christ, many other creatures came into existence; so many that you could not count them with the numbers that you have available in your world. Why did God create all these beings? He, being All-Knowing, must have realized that misery may result from it. This is, indeed, an important question.

#19, pg. 7 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. Nevertheless, as an indication of the greatness of God, He created beings who could choose freely with the power given them. Either they would have the wisdom to not abuse their power, and thus continue to live within the perfection of Divine Law in a state of eternal bliss, or, if they decide otherwise, they would finally comprehend the perfection of Divine Law, after having gone through the Valley of Death. Thus they would be more God-like than ever before. 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 experienced.

When it is said that God created His children in His Image, it is meant that all divine aspects occur in lesser degree with these created beings. Thus, the creative ability exists to some extent in every being.

#22, pg. 3 Each being God created perfectly in one way. Let us say, for instance, one being was perfect in love, another in wisdom, and so on. And the purpose was, that with the power the spirits were endowed with, they were themselves to extend this perfection in all other realms, and thus become God-like at one time.

A number of spirits have used this divine power for this purpose, and a number of other spirits have used the divine power in the opposite way. Thus the Fall came into existence. After the Fall, the pure spirits, instead of continuing and extending their own growing perfection, postponed this ultimate goal for the purpose of using their powers to work for God's Plan of Salvation.

#20, pg. 8 Thus, God created many beings and many worlds, long before a material world existed. Worlds of harmony, happiness, infinite beauty, and infinite possibilities unfolded creative divine aspects for all beings. Here the Divine Substance of each created being was freely active, uncovered by foreign and un-God-like matter.

It is your task to uncover this Divine Substance and to free it of these God-opposed layers which rob you of your unity with yourself and God. This Divine Substance is also referred to as man's Higher Self. It is also referred to as the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost is not one Being, nor is he part of a three-fold God in the sense it is often interpreted. It is simply the Divine Substance that every living creature has to some degree. So you can see that the idea of the Trinity has often been misunderstood, yet there is also a lot of truth under the misunderstanding.

THE FALL

#20, pg.9 Man often advances the idea that God should not have endowed His creatures with Free Will, for then the Fall could not have happened. Or, God, at least, should have interfered when it all started. However, happiness can only exist for any creature through union with God; and to be in union with God, you must be endowed with the same qualities. Otherwise you would be unlike God, and thus incapable of union with Him.

This freedom entails the possibility of directing free will contrary to Divine Law. In making the right choice, and avoiding the abuse of power, lies Divinity, as well as Love and Wisdom.

It is of utmost importance for all of you to grasp this idea, for then you will be able to answer many questions which you have not been able to understand.

God has already provided beforehand for the possibility of a return to God if any of the created beings did misuse their power and freedom. These laws work in such a way that ultimately everything, having once turned away from God and Divine Law, will return to Him.

#20, pg. 10 So, spiritual worlds do exist where, for a very long time, all created beings lived in a state of bliss that is unimaginable, For all creatures the possibility existed to choose freely either to live within Divine Law, or to act against it.

At one time, one spirit fell under this temptation. Symbolically, you can find the explanation of this in the story of Adam and Eve in Paradise. Actually this happened in a very different way, although the idea was there.

Perhaps it will help you to understand this if you imagine that you possess a great power. You may know that to use this power in a certain way could prove to be dangerous for you (like trying to use mind-altering drugs, for example). Yet, as long as this power is not used, you may feel a certain curiosity about 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 don't have any intention of continuing its use; you just want to try a little bit, just to see. And all theoretical knowledge that, having once tried it, you may not find it possible anymore not to be swept away by it, dissolves under the growing weight of the temptation.

Once this one spirit succumbed to the temptation, something was set in motion that he could not change anymore. The result was not an immediate change, but a gradual one. The change from harmony to disharmony took place just as gradually and as slowly as your change from disharmony to harmony.

#20, pg. 11 This spirit who succumbed first generated a power running in the opposite direction of Divine Law. With this power he could affect and influence 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 Fall of the Angels began. In this process, every Divine Aspect turned into its opposite: harmony became disharmony; beauty, ugliness; light, darkness; wisdom, blindness; love, hatred; and union became separatedness. Thus evil came into existence.

SPIRITUAL WORLDS

Spiritual worlds are psychological worlds. That does not mean that they are unsubstantial and formless. Only in your material world are thoughts and feelings abstract. In other words, a spirit creates the world wherein he lives according to his state of mind. This state of mind automatically creates a sphere consisting of landscapes, houses, objects, etc. Thus, only spirits of equal development can share a world, which, in certain stages of development, facilitates life, but, by the same token, slows down development. When you keep in mind that your attitudes, your thoughts, your feelings, your opinions, and 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. Since the Great Plan has been set in motion, many worlds exist in various degrees of harmony and disharmony, according to the state of development which the once fallen spirits have reached. Your material world is one of them.

#23, pg. 2 One of the particular purposes of this world of matter is that on this earth you are open to influences from both the higher and the lower spheres. The fact that you stand in the middle and can choose, gives you a much greater chance for faster development. At the same time, you live surrounded by people of different levels of development which creates a friction. It is much easier to live with people of the same spiritual spheres, while the difference of development among different peoples creates misunderstandings, blindness, and so on.

This difficulty can be the key to faster development, because you can certainly overcome your weaknesses faster if they are challenged by these frictions and conflicts, arising from the differences in outlook and development. So, conditions of this earth sphere are certainly more difficult; but therein lies the possibility of infinitely faster development.

HELL

#20, pg. 12 The disharmonious worlds which came into existence through the Fall are also called Hell. These worlds simply reflect the state of mind of the creatures living there. But Hell is not just one sphere; there are many spheres there, just as there are many spheres in the Divine World, or Heaven. When the Fall took place, not all who participated came into an equal state of disharmony and evil. Thus different spheres came into being within the World of Darkness, always corresponding to the individual's state of mind.

#21, pgs. 1&2 For instance, if a being had, in its perfect state, a great strength of love, this love would turn into its opposite and create a "fire of hatred and wickedness; thus a fiery world would come into existence. If another individual had the characteristic of wise calmness and detached reflection, then the opposite force would create a world of icy coldness and desolation. These spheres of fire or of icy coldness -- in the spiritual sense, of course, - are just two examples. There are the spheres of slime and dirt; there are the spheres of intense suffering through overcrowding, or through isolation, and many other varieties. So you see, all these legends are not as unreal as they may appear to you.

Since one of the most important Divine Aspects is Free Will, this too had to turn into its opposite. The spirit who was the first to abuse this power, (the one sometimes referred to as Lucifer, or Satan) influenced others to follow him. He was the first in this new world that came into existence, and he had complete power over all those who followed him. Contrary to God, he used that power.

God gives the freedom of choice, and so the possibility of abusing that power does exist. If there were no choice, there would be no freedom and no power. There can be no divine happiness if it cannot be attained and maintained in free choice. The opposite of God and His laws must be the prohibition of free choice and the domination of the strong over the weak.

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

#21, pg.3 This state of affairs seemed insoluble as far as the salvation of those fallen beings was concerned, for even if they came to the point of desiring to go back to God, they would not have the power to do so, since they were under the dominion of Satan. Since it is the plan of God that every creature will one day come back to Him out of free choice, it was imperative that He not use the same force as His opponent, even though the purpose might be a good one.

Since the life in spirit is in direct relationship to the inner harmony, enlightenment, and general attitude, spirits who have become disharmonious cannot be simply "put" into a world of harmony. In spirit, the country is you and your product. Therefore, the once fallen spirits have to attain a state where they naturally produce again the harmonious worlds.

#21, pg. 4 When these spheres of darkness first came into existence, where the spirits lived under the dominion of Lucifer, at first there was no longing, no sense of the light they had once possessed. Only after a considerable testing of the self-chosen "medicine" with all its desolation, did a vague longing for something else, which they did not know, take hold of some of these beings. The memory of God and His worlds was extinguished to the degree that disharmony had set in, but revived again as the attitudes changed in an exceedingly slow process. The vague longing that some creatures felt was sufficient to bring a glimmer of light into their world. The cold would not be quite so cold any more; the fire not so hot; the filth not quite so filthy; and the loneliness not quite so unbearable anymore.

#22, pg. 4 In the spheres of darkness, some time had to elapse before anything could be done. Enough spirits had to have this longing for light, before lighter worlds -- still in the realm of Lucifer -- came into existence. Without this longing nothing could change. In your language, millions and millions of years went by before, due to this longing, gradually this earth sphere came into existence. More souls came to live on earth because they were ready to do so. Low as their development still was, more general and individual development proceeded. For, merely by living on this earth sphere, they came -- for the first time after the Fall -- into contact with something Divine.

#21, pg. 4 When enough spirits came into this state of longing, the time was ripe for the material world to come into existence. This world in which you are now living is the product of this desire to strive higher, where certain conditions exist in which development can proceed, and in which a free choice for God can be made, which is impossible in the Worlds of Darkness.

#22, pg. 4 In the meantime, Christ was busy preparing and planning ahead, sending various pure spirits to live on earth, as well as organizing the teachings that should be brought to mankind, either through inspiration and guidance, or through communication with God's worlds.

It is impossible for you to imagine how minutely everything had to be worked out so that all would be in accordance with the Divine Laws of Justice. At that time, no matter how far a human being was developed spiritually, when returning to the Beyond, he was still under the dominion of Lucifer. Because after the Fall every divine aspect was turned into its opposite, therefore free will was turned into domination. And of course Lucifer would not give up this dominion he held

over his followers.

#22, pg.5 When enough beings were really consciously cognizant of God, and desired to have complete union with Him, the time was ripe for the greatest part of the Plan of Salvation to take place, which Christ took upon himself.

During the process of the Fall, Lucifer developed an intense jealousy towards Christ. Thus it was logical that Christ Himself should prove his love by his great sacrifice and work, not only to all the other fallen creatures, but also to Lucifer, who through this deed alone, would one day in the far future find it possible to return to God.

#22, pg.6 Thus, when the time was ripe, Christ faced Lucifer. Now, the spiritual way in which this took place is impossible to translate into human language, therefore the language I use must be limited to your understanding.

And so Christ faced Lucifer and said, "Many of your spirits desire to go back to God, therefore you should free them." But Lucifer does not recognize Divine Law, and so he would not agree. So Christ said, "Then there must be war between your forces and the forces of the Divine World." However, Lucifer replied, "Even if such a war took place, and even if the Divine Forces won and took my power away, I would not recognize the Law of God as being just."

Now, an essential part of the Plan of Salvation is that no one should be eternally damned, not even Lucifer; and so that no eternal damnation would be possible, Lucifer himself would have to admit the absolute justice of the Divine Laws.

Therefore Christ asked him, "What would it take for you to believe that the Powers are just?" And Lucifer answered, "If such a war took place after just one being from the World of God lived on earth like a man, without any protection and guidance from God's World, and if he should remain faithful to God in spite of my temptations and the greatest hardship and misery, then I would have my battle with you, and I will recognize God's laws as being utterly just."

To be left alone without the support of God's Spirit World on this earth sphere, and in addition, having to resist all attacks, hardships and temptations that the Powers of Darkness could think of, seemed an impossible task to fulfill. No human being has ever had to go through anything like it in the remotest degree; and Christ took it upon himself, (though Lucifer did not specify that it had to be Christ).

#22, pgs. 7&8 If you study the Scriptures from this point of view, you will get an entirely different understanding of it. The life and death of Christ will make sense to you. Otherwise, it would not make any sense that Christ should die on the cross for sins others have committed. If you have committed a sin, you yourself must atone for it. If someone else were to do it for you, you would not receive the strength through self-purification to protect you from sinning again.

#22, pg. 11 By this, Christ not only fulfilled the conditions by which the World of Darkness could never claim that God's laws are unjust, but He also set an example for everyone born after him.

After Christ had successfully completed his tasks on this earth sphere, he had a spiritual battle with the world of darkness. Again Lucifer had to admit the justice of the ways of God, for Christ came to fight under equal conditions. The chances were even, and this was so apparent that even Lucifer could not deny it. That is important, for the Plan is that Lucifer himself must ultimately return to God as the very last of the fallen creatures, since he was the first to turn away from the Laws of God.

#22, pg. 13 After this battle was over, new conditions were set up which reign since that time. These new conditions were that every human being has the opportunity to turn to God during his development on earth, as he goes from one life to another. Lucifer has the right to tempt man to succumb to his own lower nature. But, if man resists, he is no longer a subject of the Luciferic worlds, for the doors are now open so that he can unite with his Creator and inhabit the Divine Worlds again. That Lucifer still possesses a certain amount of freedom is necessary for man's development. Evil has to be tasted to the brim in many cases, before it can be overcome by free will and the being's own initiative.

RELIGION, TRUE AND FALSE

#19, pg.4 You can reach a stage of development through every one of the great religions, Christian and non-Christian, in which you can experience Absolute Truth. No spirit in the World of God will ever tell you to leave your church or your temple or your faith. If you have found what you seek and need in happiness, in spiritual food, in the faith you are accustomed to, remain there. Enough of basic, fundamental truth, and enough of what you need for your spiritual growth is contained in all the great religions. It is only up to you to find out what these truths are, and to put them into practice. Purification and crucifixion of your Lower Self is the one all-important thing that matters. Where and how you accomplish this does not matter so much, even if, for manifold reasons, you cannot recognize Christ in a religious affiliation.

#19, pg. 6 The fact that Christ is the Messiah, and that Christ is the most exalted of all created beings, is a very important part of the Great Truth and of the History of Creation. Whether you are able and willing to recognize them does not belie the truth. This does not mean that you should pray to Christ. Only God, the Creator, should receive our prayers. What God expects from you is gratefulness to the person without whose Greatest Deed no one could come back to Divine Light.

Try, regardless of what religion you belong to, to open your hearts and your minds. Do not leave the faith you are accustomed to, for that is not necessary, unless you wish to do so. But consider that which I have spoken to you is true, even if you do not believe that this is a spirit who talks to you, who has the knowledge and the insight that these are facts, and not mere opinions, as you on earth are able to have on these subjects.

No one group among all mankind has all the truth. And you, as a spiritually searching person, should open the doors for truth, no matter from which side it may present itself to you. Just as all religions have enough truth contained in them to enable your purification, by the same token, all religions also contain errors. So it is important for you only to follow that which your spirit demands, which your Higher Self longs for.

M.R.W. - January, 1986