

THE JOURNEY HAS JUST BEGUN

Guidance received by Donovan Thesenga in 1982

The following piece is guidance that I received in 1982, three years after the death of Eva Pierrakos. At that time, the leadership structure that had existed under Eva was falling apart, recriminations abounded, and many members were leaving. At this grim point in our history, the following message came through to me, in the longest sustained piece of guidance that I had ever received. Now, 23 years later, the Pathwork® situation is much healthier. But I am struck with the continuing relevance of this guidance for us. – DT.

My dear son: these words are addressed to you, and are for your benefit and for the benefit of the group you lead.

Your journey as a path has only completed the first leg of the trip. It is true that the distance covered so far has been great. Eight years ago the Pathwork® did not exist in Washington; now it is substantial. But this is still only the beginning. You have crossed the Atlantic, as it were. You have traveled, let us say, from the coast of America to the coast of England.

But this trip is a round-the-world cruise. And by far the greatest part of the journey still lies ahead of you.

When you first began this voyage, your fire and inspiration drew people to you to help you. This first group of followers became the next generation of leaders, became the helpers and the teachers. At that time the need for great giving was clear and obvious. Everything had to be done. Buildings had to be built, and infrastructures created. Countless decisions had to be made. What did it mean to be a helper? What did it mean to teach a training class? What should be included in a Sevenoaks weekend? How do we set up a financial structure that will enable us to pay our own way?

All of these initial tasks have now been accomplished. What you set out to do eight years ago has been done. This ship has successfully made the crossing of the Atlantic, and has docked in Great Britain.

And yet, in the past year, a new uncertainty has come upon the ship. Many of the first generation of leaders feel a flatness and uncertainty in their lives. They don't know what they want to do next. They feel tempted to settle for what they have achieved so far.

Many followers, too, feel tempted to stop now. They have found their mate, found their career, purchased their house. They are much happier than they used to be. What now does this voyage have to offer them? Why go on the next leg of the journey? Why not stay here in England and live the good life?

Even you and your wife, the carriers of this vision to Washington, felt this temptation very strongly. You were tempted to stay in and enjoy your beautiful house, grow flowers in your garden, and enjoy the sunsets over the Blue Ridge Mountains. You too have needed this crisis, and this faltering of enthusiasm among the leaders and the followers, to awaken you to the realization that something more needed to be done.

God has more in store for you than you realized.

You have essentially completed the task that I offered to you, and which you accepted, eight years ago. You were told then that your task was to found and lead a spiritual community. You were promised that you would receive all the help you would need, from both the spiritual and human realms; and this was indeed forthcoming to you.

One year ago you had the thought: "I have succeeded in my task. I could die now, and the Center would continue." Only now are you able to realize that you were tempted to die then. You began to think of old age and retirement; even to look forward to this. Unconsciously, you did not want to know what your next task would be. Therefore, these crises were necessary to force you to awaken again.

You must now realize the voyage has only begun.

Let me refer you again to the lecture, "What is the Path", which states: "Dealing with confusions, inner misconceptions, misunderstandings, destructive attitudes, alienating defenses, negative emotions, paralyzed feelings, is essential. However, while this is the ultimate goal of psychotherapy, the Pathwork enters its most important phase only after this stage is over. And that most important phase is, briefly, the learning of how to activate the Greater Consciousness that dwells within every human soul."

To date, the Pathwork has dealt almost exclusively with the work on the personality levels, with the clearing away of obstructions. And you have done this work very well. The increased levels of sanity and happiness in your members gives ample evidence of this. But the next level of work, the activation of the Greater Consciousness, has only just barely begun. Most of your members, and even most of your helpers, have experienced only the tiniest glimpses of this Greater Consciousness.

I have given you a whole group of lectures on the unitive state of consciousness, and these are still the least understood lectures in the Pathwork.

Do not fool yourself that you have comprehended, or plumbed the depths, of this path of purification. You have all done very well at the initial stages of the journey. But the journey has just begun. The Pathwork, in its final form, is yet to be created. This final form exists now in the spirit world, but you must do the work to form and shape and manifest it on the material plane.

Many Pathwork members have debated whether or not there is really any essential difference between the Pathwork and psychotherapy. How absurd! Do you not believe what I have said in the lectures about this subject? Is the Pathwork not based on these lectures? Do they not say, again and again, that the goal of psychotherapy is a noble one but a limited one, whereas the goal of the Pathwork is unlimited?

The goal of psychotherapy is to produce happy, well-integrated human beings. This is not the goal of a true spiritual path.

Does this surprise you? Did you think that the goal of a spiritual path was happiness? It is not. The goal of a spiritual path is: (1) to find and do God's will, (2) to activate the Greater Consciousness (which can also be stated as to find one's true identity, (3) to learn how to live one's daily life in the context of this "true identity", and (4) to move beyond the human state and enter into true unity with God.

Surely you can see now how your voyage has just begun.

The voyage will not be easy; it is not meant to be. The overcoming of obstacles and frustration, tolerating pain, suffering betrayal and defeat, and still going on – all of these are necessary for the fires of purification and transformation.

How then are you to deal with the next leg of your voyage? What are you to watch for on the way? How can you all be re-inspired to leave your safe harbor and venture forth again on the uncharted seas?

Know first that some of you will choose not to continue on the voyage. Some will stay in port. They have gone as far as they wish to go. Their journey toward the unitive state will await some other lifetime. Allow them to leave you with courtesy and grace, taking with them all the treasures they have gained on the journey so far.

Others will stay on board, but will cease to be first mates and boatswains. They have done their stint at the wheel, and now wish to be just passengers. Find honorable ways for these people to make this transition. New members will step forward to take positions of responsibility. They will be raw and uncertain at first. Teach them to handle the steering of the ship.

But do not let those who choose to stay in port convince you that this is the final destination. And do not let those who give up leadership convince you that they have chosen the more blessed state, and that leadership is no longer necessary. Do not be deluded into thinking that because you have done so well in dealing with the personality levels, that this is all the voyage is about.

During this initial stage of the Pathwork, when its principal work greatly resembled psychotherapy, many models were borrowed from the field of psychotherapy. Now, as you move into new terrain, new models must be found and created.

Why then is this new path, the Pathwork, needed at all? There are so many spiritual paths already, many of them hundreds and thousands of years old. I say to you that the need is there. The lectures I have given you outline an understanding of the need for the transformation of the lower self that appears in no other spiritual path. The very central tenet of the Pathwork, the exposure and transformation of the lower self, has begun to be diluted in recent years. Together you must all learn how to grapple with the lower self on still deeper levels.

You have learned how to deal fairly effectively with the lower self, as it affects your individual personality issues. But you must learn to see how it manifests in relation to your reluctance to move beyond the level of the individual personality, to your fears of attaining the unified state.

At this stage of the work, the lower self will manifest in many subtle rationalizations and denials. You will convince yourself that God's will for you now is, after all, merely to become a better fisherman, or a better husband or wife, or a more full-hearted enjoyer of the pleasures of human life.

All of these endeavors are honorable in their own way; but they should not be used as a substitute for continuing the voyage. There is no real dichotomy here. One need not choose one or the other. One can be a better fisherman, or a better spouse and parent, and still continue the voyage to a new state of unified consciousness.

In the same way, the style of Pathwork as it is now practiced will continue. All of those who enter your community will still need the basic work on the personality level, the clearing away of obstructions. But, for most people, several years of this work will be sufficient. After that, experiments must be made in finding new ways of working with the desire, and the reluctance, to transcend the limited ego consciousness.

You will also experiment with new ways of supporting your community, other than the strict method of cause and effect that has been important up to now. The spirit of service to the world will grow, and artistic and creative endeavors will become more important. The present therapy-like modalities will continue; but to these will be added other ways of being that will be more like that of a church. You will truly become a spiritual community.

These are exciting changes that lie ahead of you. Welcome them and grow with them. Recognize that change is the very essence of growth. But always retain the special core of what this Pathwork most deeply is: a path of transformation which exposes and transforms the lower self, and which ultimately leads to an understanding of one's true nature, one's true identity, the face that one had before one's father and mother were born.

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