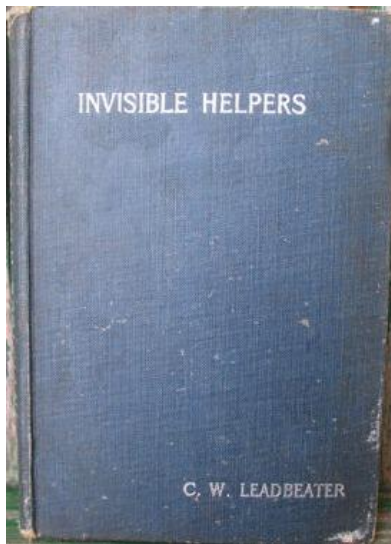


Patterns of Perfection

Excerpted from

Embracing Death: A New Look at Grief, Gratitude and God

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One day my friend Harold -- a man in his 80s -- gifted me with an antique book called "Invisible Helpers," which he'd unearthed while cleaning out his attic. Harold knows my spiritual proclivities, and knew the book was meant for me. It was published by the Theosophical Society in 1915 (they're big on after-death communication), and written by C. W. Leadbeater. I read most of it with great interest, and then added it to the pile of unfinished books on my bedside table with a bookmark where I'd stopped reading at the end of chapter nine.

Around this time I got a postcard from General Motors informing me of a recall on a part of the car I'd recently purchased. I had to bring the car to a dealership in the next town, so I asked my friend Kelsey to meet me there and drive me home after I dropped off my car.

After turning my car over the mechanic, Kelsey called to tell me she was running late, so I went to the reception area to wait for her. In the reception area was a television tuned to a local news channel, and I entered the room just in time to see a news segment about a 5 year-old boy who'd hit his head on a rock while playing in a rock quarry with his older brother. I was mesmerized by the story, and felt intense pain for the family, especially for the older brother who would likely struggle with guilt for the rest of his life. I said a silent prayer to my guides, especially to Danny, asking them to stand with this family and help them. They instantly gave me an image of the boy arriving on the other side, and I heard Danny say, "He is a member of our soul family. Don't worry. We've got him."

A couple of important points to note here. I do not have cable TV, and as long as I've lived in this area I've never seen the local news. I would not have seen that news report if I hadn't gone to the car dealership that day and if Kelsey hadn't been late picking me up. There was clearly a reason for me to see that story.

For the next few days all I could think about was those two brothers. I felt the dead boy's presence around me constantly, and I even made some calls to people in our community who knew the family, and offered to help in any way I could. I was assured that the family had a church network and had all the spiritual help they needed. I knew there was nothing I could do -- in the physical world -- to help them.

A few nights later I lay in my bed unable to sleep, feeling agitated and obsessed about this family. I noticed *The Invisible Helpers* book on the bedside table, and thought that reading might help put me to sleep. I opened the book to where I'd left the bookmark at the end of Chapter nine and turned the page to the beginning of Chapter 10. The name of the chapter was *The Two Brothers*.

The chapter was about two brothers who lived in 1897 Scotland -- Walter and Lancelot. They were out riding horses together when Lancelot fell off his horse, hit his head on a rock and died. Walter was destroyed by grief and guilt, wouldn't eat or leave his bed, and his parents thought he was dying of a broken heart. In this story, the spirit of Lancelot stood by Walter's side the whole time, but Walter was too grief stricken and emotional to see it. So Lancelot asked his guides to help him manifest a visual image of himself for Walter to see, so that Walter would be comforted and assured that Lancelot was not really gone.

I knew this story had come to me on this particular day for a reason. It didn't come last week or last month when I'd started reading the book. It came *today*, after a week of agonizing about the boy who died in the rock quarry. But why? What was the connection? How was this boy part of my soul family? I asked Danny, and this is what he told me:

"The magnificent timing of these events -- the boy's death, your trip to the car dealership and the reading of Chapter 10 in the book -- is part of a powerful teaching your soul has requested. You have felt confident about offering healing and guidance to parents who've lost a child to illness, but have felt inadequate to help parents who've experienced a child's sudden, seemingly preventable death. You have asked, from the depth of your soul, for teaching tools to help you address this topic with confidence, and we -- *your* invisible helpers -- led you to this experience to help expand your understanding.

You would not have heard the news if you'd not taken your car to the service center that day. You might have been in the bathroom or out talking to the mechanic while that news segment aired, or Kelsey might have been on time. A series of Divine directional signals fell into alignment to make it possible for the requested tools to arrive. Everybody involved, from the boy and his family to Kelsey and the man who gave you the book, were part of this plan. On a soul level we are all connected this deeply, though on the earth plane we may appear to be strangers.

There are no coincidences, and timing is always perfect. If you'd read the story about Walter and Lancelot prior to hearing about the boy's death in the rock quarry, it would have been just an interesting story, and your soul would not have touched into it in the same way. So it was necessary to put the book aside for a few weeks, see the news report, and then pick up the book again to see the story about the two brothers in Scotland. This is how all human events are guided. This is how patterns of perfection work. Today was an exercise in these patterns for you.

As you know, every death transforms the people who are attached to that transitioning soul, and in this case, you and I have a connection to the soul of the boy for teaching purposes. He is part of your story because his death will have a profound impact on a new direction you take with your teaching.

You are thinking about how to help the guilt-filled brother. You think you can pray for his protection from guilt and suffering or for his comfort or peace. But you know that you can't protect him from that, because a struggle with guilt is part of his lesson plan. Certainly you can pray that someone will have comfort, but how will they access that comfort? How will it reach them? Will they be open to receiving it?

The only prayer that has any effect is a prayer that asks for an opening to higher guidance.

In the story of Walter and Lancelot, the only way to comfort poor Walter was to give him a vision of his dead brother. In other words, to open a conduit to the Divine. Asking for that opening is the only intervention you can request for another person. The most powerful prayer for the grieving brother is one that asks that the guides and helpers will be allowed access to his consciousness so he can receive their support.

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