



The White Light of Grace: Reflections On the Life of A Spiritual Intuitive

By: Lillie Leonardi

In *The White Light of Grace*, author and speaker Lillie Leonardi shares the stories of her life, beginning with the ancestral origins of her intuitive gifts and the early childhood experiences that uncover her ability to communicate with angels. The book traces life-altering events, times when she called on the angels for blessings and others when she learned how to rely on herself. Throughout, her revelations about love, loss, and healing unfold. Her remarkable stories focus on her personal transformations, as well as the incredible experiences of those around her.

About the Author



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After serving for more than 25 years, **Lillie Leonardi** retired from law enforcement to pursue her lifetime passion for writing.

From 1998 to 2010, Lillie was employed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Pittsburgh Division as its Community Outreach Specialist. She also worked under the auspice of the United States Attorney's Office, Western District of Pennsylvania, and served with a prestigious group of instructors. Lillie provided training on various subjects including: community policing, crime prevention, cultural competency, hate crimes, responding to a major incident, threat assessment, and violence reduction.

On 9/11 and in the post days of recovery, Lillie was utilized by the FBI to address law enforcement, government, and social service agency representatives assisting with evidence recovery and preparations for two memorial services at the Flight 93 crash site. She not only served as primary liaison to the United Airlines Humanitarian Response Team—presenting at daily briefings and interacting with surviving family members—but also escorted families to the crash site for the memorial services.

Prior to her career with the FBI, Lillie worked as the lead law enforcement officer on two college campuses in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In 1984, she was appointed to serve as the first female police officer with the City of Arnold, Pennsylvania.

Her first non-fiction book about her experience as a responder on 9/11 entitled, ***In the Shadow of a Badge*** was released in 2013 with Hay House and sold over 30,000 copies globally. Her first exclusive eBook entitled ***Before I Go*** was released winter 2016 and is co-authored by her eldest grandchild. In February 2016, Lillie will release her second book titled, ***The White Light of Grace: Reflections on the Life of a Spiritual Intuitive***.

The following is an excerpt from *The White Light of Grace: Reflections On the Life of A Spiritual Intuitive*, written by Lillie Leonardi, published by Hay House (February, 2016) available in bookstores or online at HayHouse.com, Amazon.com, BarnesAndNoble.com, and IndieBound.org.

Chapter 1: The Origins of Grace

Since my earliest recollections, I have been graced by the white light from heaven above. Although for many years I did not understand what a blessed life I have lived, I have come to comprehend it now. At the age of 16, I first began my relationship with Mary. Our alliance was forged after my mother gifted me with a small prayer book to honor Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Over the years, this strong bond has aided me in better understanding my spiritual path and purpose. Through it, I learned to accept that life has many mysteries that do not always allow for an explanation or even make sense. Sometimes, there seem to be no clear reasons for what transpires. However, I now believe that the answers to all questions are ever-present—that is, if we are willing to listen to the inner wisdom of our souls.

This amazing bond with Mother Mary was not, however, the initial spiritual connection I felt with the heavenly realm. As a child, I felt the magnificent presence of the Archangel Michael, and often confided this belief in others. When first I told my parents about the encounters, my mother said they were just a part of my “overactive imagination.” She would often berate me and caution me not to share the details of the angelic encounters with others. In her own way, Mom was trying to protect me, but I felt she had somehow betrayed me as well. For in my mind, I knew what I professed about the Archangel to be true. When Archangel Michael would appear in the corner of my bedroom, I would instantly feel the warmth of his being. In turn, I would feel an inner connection to him and the illumination of my soul.

Chapter 2: First Holy Communion

My initial recollection of sensing the presence of my guardian angel was during the church ceremony of my first Holy Communion. When I approached the bishop and he extended his hand toward me, I opened my mouth to receive the host. I heard my shaky voice utter the word, "Amen."

I then turned to march across the front of the altar and down the side aisle. At that moment, my mind became confused and I hesitated. All of a sudden, I heard a dulcet voice whisper, "Turn this way."

With the words softly echoing in my ear, my entire being became warm. Then it felt as if an invisible hand was placed upon my shoulder gently guiding me in the appropriate direction. With that touch, my whole body became electrified with a wonderful energy. At that point in my life, I was unaware that this was the magic of an angel's touch. Yet despite my childhood naiveté, I was somehow astute enough to truly comprehend that I had experienced divine intervention.

Chapter 3: A Child Within A Child

My lovely daughter started her life with some heavy weights to bear. Her birth was not much of a celebrated event. It was the early 1970s, and unwed pregnancies were far less common than they are today. At the time, most expectant teenagers were hidden away in disgrace, sent away to a distant relative until an adoption could be arranged, or

pressured to marry the father. On top of this, the Catholic Church frowned upon premarital sex. In my case, its rebuke was swift, severe, and unmerciful. I had to spend several hours in front of priests and nuns, listening to how my actions were going to send me straight down into hellfire. Their words left a mark that made me feel tainted for many years to come. I felt branded in shame.

When I tell you that I knew the very moment Vanessa was conceived, believe me: it is a fact. Despite the limited knowledge of sex and my own reproductive system, I felt an instantaneous link to the universe when I became pregnant. It is a sensation of interconnectedness I find hard to describe. Over the years, I have heard many women indicate they, too, could feel life in their womb at the moment of conception. As the baby began to grow inside of me, I felt an immediate bond with her. Despite the negative judgments of church leaders and the emotional outbursts from my family members I had to endure, my heart was filled with love for that little girl growing inside my womb.

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An Interview with Lillie Leonardi

1. *What does being a “spiritual intuitive” mean?*

A spiritual intuitive is an individual who believes in the existence of God (or higher power) and is awakened to the deep connection of spirit to one and all – both on the earthly domain and heavenly realm.

It is my belief that we are all blessed with intuitive gifts. The only difference is that some individuals are more open to feel, hear, and see the universal energy and connection of spirit and to angelic guides.

2. *In your book you suggest that defining moments in your life led to the awakening of your spirituality. Can you give us an example?*

The most significant event was that of 9/11 and responding to the Flight 93 crash site. In those initial moments of being present, I witnessed an angelic encounter. This experience completely altered my life and caused my mind to not only think in terms of the physical realm, but those of the metaphysical as well.

In searching for answers I read, researched, and questioned theologians to better understand the profound event that awakened my mind and linked my spirit to God and His angelic beings.

3. *You served in the law enforcement professional for 25 years. Why did you become a writer?*

Since the age of 16 years, I have penned poems and stories. So writing was a part of my life’s journey for many years. When I was diagnosed with PTSD, my treating psychologist suggested that I journal thoughts and emotions as part of the treatment plan. In doing so, the story of 9/11, Flight 93, and a legion of angels began to play out on the paper. And soon I realized, the writings were not only meant to heal me, but others, too.

4. *Describe what transpired on 9/11 at the Flight 93 crash site.*

My heart broke in the first minutes at the scene and would remain so for years to come. Any innocence I’d retained over the years dissipated as I stepped onto the field. My body heaved a great sigh, and I felt the purest part of me retreat into hiding. It did not want to witness what lay before me.

Yet almost simultaneously, a shimmer of light appeared on the field. It began to grow until it was almost blinding. I turned and looked at it more directly, and it began to evolve into a foggy white mist. The mist then began to move, swirling in patterns of spectacular white light. Then before my eyes, the mist took shape. To my amazement, there at the left of the crash site stood what appeared to be a legion of angels.

5. *Were you raised to be religious/spiritual or to believe in angels?*

Yes, I was raised very religious, but not necessarily spiritual. My parents were both devout Catholics who practiced their Catholicism in every aspect of their life. They firmly believed in God, His Son and the Holy Spirit. I attended parochial school and went to church every day during the school year. Classroom studies included stories of the Bible, and angels were part of the dogma learned.

6. *Since the events of 9/11, how has your life been altered?*

It was dramatically altered beginning with the loss of my employment with the FBI. As a result of being diagnosed with PTSD, I was deemed medically unable to perform my duties. As such, I was retired on medical disability.

After serving in law enforcement for over 25 years, I was devastated by the loss of my livelihood. In some ways, it felt as if I lost my identity. I finally became aware that my former profession was not my identity, but my soul was the origin of whom I was and who I would evolve to be.

7. *How were you able to reimagine life after being diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder?*

Through my writings and book travels, I came to understand that although I had accomplished my dream to serve in the law enforcement profession, I had not yet fulfilled my spiritual purpose. As I moved through a cycle of healing, life seemed to reimagine itself. The writings took root and the books were created. Had I not been affected with PTSD, I'm not sure that the transitional elements of life would have taken hold. So in some respects, the illness led me on the path of discovery and awakening.

8. *What are transitional elements?*

Transitional elements are occurrences in life that allow for an individual to evolve. They can either hinder the individual or enlighten. They also help to define an individual.

9. *How were you were able to finally accept your intuitive gifts?*

For far too long, I struggled to accept my intuitive gifts. So much so that at times I perceived them as a curse instead of a blessing. It wasn't until the intuition became all encompassing that I realized I was being led in the direction of spirit. With the constant urging of angelic guides, I finally relinquished control and allowed for the gifts to flow.

Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy aided in my journey as well. It allowed for my mind to release trapped emotions and open to all the possibilities.

10. *How can someone come to embrace his/her authentic self?*

Embracing my authentic self was a lifelong journey. As a child, I was often told not to talk about beliefs and connections to angelic beings. It took me years to accept that although I felt different, I was very much like most others. The only difference was that my heart and mind were open, while others seemed to be more afraid of their gifts.

By accepting my intuitive gifts, I feel as if I am living an authentic life. I no longer gauge my life based on the perceptions of others. If I feel connected in spirit, then I am living my fullest.