

No Smoking in Heaven

This happened to me in January 2015. Early in the morning at 6:10 AM, I was woken up by someone's energy. You know how you can sometimes feel someone standing or sitting near you, but you don't look over at them yet? Then you look, and sure enough, there they are?

It was like that. Except there was no one I could see there. It was just the feeling that there was someone there near me.

I could tell it was a "he." I don't know how I knew that, I just knew it. And he told me he was Nancy's brother. Nancy is a friend of mine in Phoenix. I knew that she had had a brother who had died, but I didn't know any more than that.

He told me to tell her various messages, including that he was doing fine and that he had tried to get a message to her but that it wasn't that easy. Since the other parts of the messages are personal between the two of them regarding their relationship, I won't share them here. The content of that part of the messages is not important to our discussion here, and I always honor people's privacy.

What is interesting and not of such a sensitive nature, is that he mentioned two very odd things — at least I thought they were odd and somewhat out of place at the time. He mentioned that there is no smoking where he is, and at the end of our conversation, he 'showed' me a visual of Nancy and him going out at night to a nightclub that he said was in San Diego.

When I told Nancy those two odd parts of the message, it immediately made sense to her.

She told me he absolutely hated cigarette smoke (of which I had no previous knowledge), and that a week before he died, they both went to a nightclub in San Diego together where he sang karaoke and got a standing ovation from the crowd! That was the last time she saw him — 16 years earlier.

So, by telling me to tell her those two specific (what I thought were totally random) parts of the message, I think her brother may have been trying to give her a personal message within the message to let her know that it, in fact, was he who was sending her this message.

Later, Nancy told me that her brother Mitchell had committed suicide. So, for her it carried an extra level of pain. Suicide is a special kind of pain for the survivors. It's very hard to reconcile. Many people believe that God condemns people who commit suicide to hell. But certainly any loving God would not condemn those who are so upset, at one moment, that they take their own lives.

Nancy told me —

“My brother's message to me proved that. He is not in some place known as hell. His message ended my 16 years of agony. Last year on November 10th is the first time I didn't cry. I acknowledged him with love and I didn't fall apart.

“Kel, I didn't tell you that in his suicide note to me he said that he would try to get a message to me somehow. And in his message to you he said that it wasn't that easy. But at last he was able to and finally I got the relief that I so desperately needed to move forward. I just needed to know that he was okay. He was all alone when he died and that also broke my heart.

“The Heidorn Lifeline, a suicide and crisis hotline specializing in LGBTQ-related challenges, still operates in San Diego County in the LGBT community (originally under the San Diego LGBT Community Center, and now through the San Diego Center for Children). It’s a comfort to me to know that my brother lives on through this endowment created in his name by his partner. Through his death he is now helping others to deal with the issues that he struggled with and which ultimately led to his own suicide.”