

Lesson Twenty – Luke

Your purpose in life - your life's mission - will be something you love and take great joy in. Joy is a natural expression of one who is fulfilling his or her purpose. What offers you peace? What gives you joy? What do you love to do? All these are clues to the destiny that you're trying to reach, your life's mission. Believe in yourself and trust that the universe is in your corner. Reach within, listen to the whispers of your heart, and bring what is within into the world. This is how you will begin to manifest and live your wishes and dreams.

- James Blanchard Cisneros, *You Have Chosen to Remember: A Journey From Perception to Knowledge, Peace of Mind and Joy*

Pets will come to us to fulfill a life purpose. Much like each person will have a specific experience and purpose that is agreed upon while we are still in the spirit world. When we are born only subconscious traces of this agreement stay in our memories. When we are restless or unhappy in our vocations or relationships, chances are we are not on course to fulfill our personal purpose. It can be challenging to follow our heart's desires, give over to our senses and govern less with our minds.

Often there are synchronistic events that bring a human and an animal together so that both may fulfill the agreed upon experience or purpose. Even though we have many pets in our lifetimes some will have a greater impact on our lives and each one will occupy a different space within our hearts.

The story of Luke, my Border Collie contains all of the above. I had the honor of working side by side with Luke everyday for many years. But I did not know until the last day we were together just how perfectly it had all been orchestrated.

Just before I moved from California to Oklahoma I was at the fair and happened upon the sheep trial events in one of the show barns. I could not take my eyes off the handlers and the Border Collies. Most of them were black and white, some red and white. The dogs were responding to whistles and moved with a grace that was more like a choreographed dance. They had the ability to move the sheep with an instinctive inner power and listen to their handler at the same time. Each one had their own unique style of working with the sheep. Some moved quickly, some had the stealth style that Border Collies are known for, while others moved with more hesitation. They were so beautiful I couldn't take my eyes off of them. I noticed they all had something in common; they loved what they did. As I watched these dogs, the sheep, and their handlers a sense of knowing struck my heart like an arrow and I knew I would someday have a sheep dog.

A few years later I was living in Oklahoma, working hard and living a dream training horses and giving riding lessons full time. I was getting a reining horse ready for her first big event and took her to my friend, Tony's place to ride so she would be comfortable traveling to different arenas. Tony mentioned that a man he knew named, Steve was coming from Arkansas to pick up the horse that he was riding. He also mentioned that Steve had working Border Collie dogs for sale. I responded with, "That's interesting. I want to get a working dog some day" and returned to concentrate on working with my horse.

In fact, I had forgotten about the conversation when I received a call from Steve. Tony had mentioned to him that I might be interested in a dog. My logical mind said I don't need a working dog, I don't have time. But instead my heart and mouth said, "Yes, I am interested in getting one." I guess the 'someday' that I had mentioned arrived earlier than expected. Steve had two eight month old male dogs left from a litter. He had been moving so the dogs had not been

socialized or handled much, but were out of good working stock. He described one as being very shy and the other one as more aggressive. Something inside immediately said, sight unseen, “I want the shy one.” So a timid, dirty, and wet loving Border Collie, who I named Luke arrived from Arkansas to become a part of our family.....

Read more in *They Sing to Our Hearts* about the many lessons and adventures Naomi had with her beloved Luke. Then, when it was time for Luke to leave the physical world the visit from Naomi’s departed grandfather who shared with her the past life she and Luke had together.