

THE LIGHTER WAY

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Abstract

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The *Lighter Way* is a transmedia interactive novel that follows characters in New York City and across the web. In it, a group of unseen healers is testing a virtual space called the Lighter Web, designed to create a community that moves people away from dehumanization and division toward empathy and love.

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THE SEARCH BEGINS

I had been waiting for a few weeks to hear back from Cautious Anonymous regarding a new assignment. When I saw the email headline—Book Review—I felt energized and excited about my next reading adventure. Until I read the email.

Book Review

Editor@cautiousanonymous.com

Dear Hannah,

The blogger Headair just posted an article with some insight from a book called “Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom.” She did not mention the author’s name, or how to find the book, and makes it sound like it is sacred, without anything to sustain her claim.

We would like you to find the book, write a review, and interview the author if possible.

You can read Headair’s blog post here: <https://headairnews.light/sacred-wisdom/>

Your review will be published in our next issue. The deadline is a week from today.

Refusing this assignment was not an option. I had a contract to fulfill with them, and as a freelancer, I could not lose it. But what a letdown. I read Headair’s article in disbelief. My dear friend Noah passed away recently and struggling with grief, I couldn’t have cared less about what sounded like a self-help book about crystals. It hurt to remember that this was the kind of book Noah might have been into. They were focused on both traditional allopathic medicine and experimental drugs, combined with a plethora of alternative healing modalities, such as energy work, Tai Chi, therapies, crystals, and eating a healthy diet.

I arrived at the lab a few minutes late, it was my turn to sit with Noah while they received treatment. Ruth sent me back to where they were. Most of the chairs were empty, and Noah stood up when I got there. I noticed they were crying.

“The chemo is no longer working, they told me to go home.”

“I’m so sorry!” I handed Noah the dark blue scarf I had knitted for them.

“It’s the same yarn as the headband you wore last week, it’s beautiful. You didn’t have to.”

“I knew you’d like it. I had been knitting the scarf but it took me longer to finish than I thought.”

“Thank you. I’ll call Dave to pick me up.”

“Why don’t we go for a walk and grab a bite to eat first? Tell your brother to pick you up later.”

“That’d be nice.”

We walked to the park in silence.

We stopped to hug a Sugar Maple tree and asked the tree to give us strength. We paused. I released the hug much faster than Noah; they had always been more comfortable than I to hug trees in public.

We were hungry and walked to a nearby restaurant to eat an Italian meal, ordering a salad and a veggie lasagna to share. Pasta was to be avoided according to one of Noah’s healers but today seemed like a good one to indulge. It wasn’t noon yet. The restaurant was practically empty and our food arrived quickly.

As we were talking about life and death, Noah hugged themselves and said “I love this life. I’d like to continue living.”

“What’s next might be a wonderful adventure.” I tried to cheer them up. “How about the healer in Scotland?” A friend of ours had mentioned someone there who could help.

“I’m not going to Scotland, it is over. Hope you will continue the work we started.” Last year we joined a Think Tank to launch campaigns and raise awareness of the *equiarcky* movement, advocating for equity on behalf of every human being, and exploring ways to create a more accepting world. Noah used their artistic talents and marketing skills to help spread the message. They were passionate about it and saddened that they would not see it fully actualized.

“I will.” What else could I have said?

A few days later, I texted Noah “I don’t know what to say.”

Noah responded, “neither do I.” I truly did not know what to say after that. I sent them love.

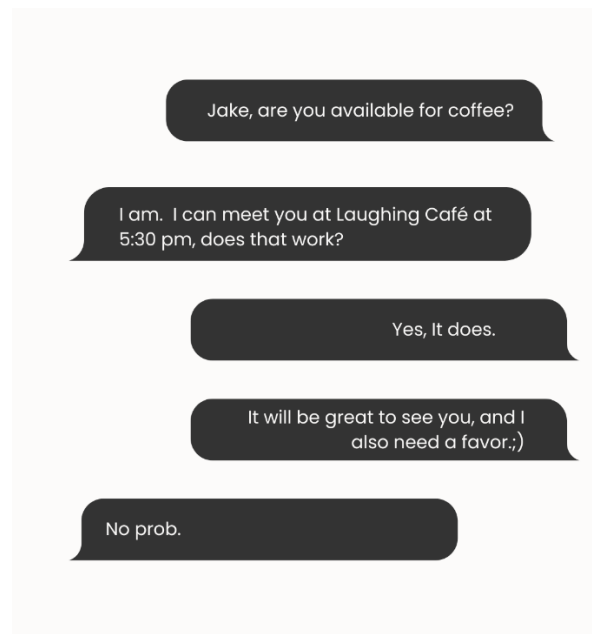
Initially, the oncologist estimated they had a maximum of six months to live after receiving their first diagnosis. They lasted five years and passed two months after our walk in the park. I mainly ignored it when some believed the alternative treatments worked. If they truly did, Noah would still be alive today.

Dave was with Noah when they passed in the hospital. I had visited a few days earlier, but Noah was no longer conscious. After Noah’s passing, my already skeptical self became even more doubtful. If alternative healing practices hadn’t saved someone as committed as Noah, it all must be a ruse. Maybe that was the grief talking. Why did the investigative news outlet I freelance for choose me of all people to go on a hunt for an esoteric crystal book?

After reading Headair’s article and before I started searching, I took steps to avoid my social media feed or any site I visited becoming filled with BS healing tool ads. I opened a private page, accessed the search engine NenujKuketoj.com, and made sure I was VPN-connected. The book’s title in quotation marks generated no results besides the “Sacred Wisdom” article. The search without quotation marks generated results for milky crystals but nothing else regarding the book. I opted to visit my local library,

which was five blocks away. The librarian helping me did not find any trace of that title, or at least not within the library system. He did seem intrigued about it and took my number just in case.

I stopped by the health food store near home and bought lunch from the salad bar. I didn't feel like cooking. Then, I texted the only person I knew who had the means to find information about this elusive book. Jake worked for WiFiAll, an encrypted platform hosted on the Dark Web. It allowed journalists in countries whose leaders only broadcasted dictatorship propaganda to safely share their work without revealing their identities. I believed he could help and texted him.



Jake knew Laughing Café was a good location for both of us: he could walk there from his home in downtown Manhattan, and it was only one subway ride from Brooklyn for me. It was also a place we visited often with Noah. I did not mind the 40-minute ride. It would give me extra time to read the "*Love at First Share*" book Noah gave me as a joke. I enjoyed it so far and imagined that Noah would laugh at this fact. I arrived first and got a table outside.

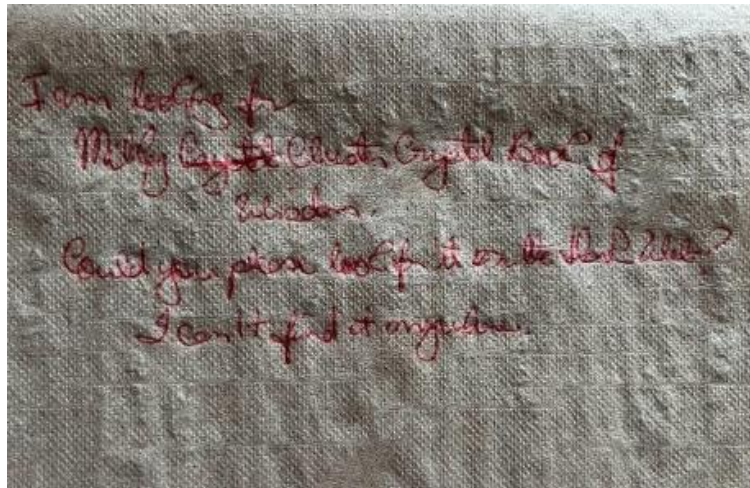
"Hey Jake!"

“Hey Hannah.” I noticed his smile when he saw me. We hugged, went inside, and he ordered.

“Two cappuccinos and a blueberry muffin, please.” After Noah’s diagnosis, they stopped drinking coffee and eating sweets. We switched to savory treats instead and the two of us ordered tea. Jake never stopped drinking coffee. Now we were back to our old ways of coffee and dessert.

The cappuccino at Laughing Café included dark chocolate shavings at the bottom of the mug. The routine of stirring the cream with the coffee, and mixing it with the chocolate as it melted soothed me. We cut the muffin in half, jokingly saying that neither of us wanted more calories than our fair share. I wrote down on a napkin the book title and a question and gave it to him.

Jake read my note and looked surprised.



“Since when have you been interested in crystal wisdom?”

“It’s a work assignment. I will email you a link about it. It didn’t mention the author or where to find the book. My online and library research has turned out to be fruitless.”

“It sounds like a book Noah would be into.”

“I know they would have. They’ve been on my mind a lot.”

“Remember what we heard at the temple, no one goes sooner or later than they are supposed to.” I must have been looking sad for Jake to bring this up.

“Whatever.” I was not convinced.

“I’ll have time tonight to start digging. Let’s meet at Strawberry Fields tomorrow at 8 am, go for a run, and I’ll bring what I uncover. What should we use as a code word if we need to text about it?”

“Noah?”

“Deal.”

We made small talk before going our separate ways. I took the D train heading to Brooklyn, and Jake walked home. The romance book stayed in my bag as my mind raced too much to focus. I stopped by a drugstore in my neighborhood to buy a pint of mint chocolate chip ice cream. It had been an emotional day for me. When I stopped at the counter to pay, the cashier said my hair looked nice. Her comment cheered me up for a moment.

I ate the bit of salad I had left before digging into the ice cream. Noah, or their healer, might not have approved of the sugar-filled dessert, especially after having eaten half a muffin, but it was good for my soul. I printed and reread Headair’s article.

Sacred Wisdom



There were 1,000 new subscribers added last week, welcome! For those of you who are new to my blog, the goal is to contribute to a more positive way of living. This post and the quotes I share are very much aligned with it.

An elusive book came to my attention recently. My source, whom I trust explicitly, wishes to remain anonymous. She sent me the book cover and three quotes directly from it. I will share them with you next. My contact said that the author is interested in spreading this knowledge, without requiring any monetary contribution or personal gain.

It is called the *Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom* and contains sacred wisdom that you can start applying in your life today. My source believes that the book was channeled, and yet, it is not accessible on the surface web or sold at bookstores. If that sounds too much for you, consider going beyond your reservations and reflect on the wisdom present here.

The first quote is:

"In a relationship of crystals connected to each other, all parts are aware of the vital elements that they carry and how essential each element is for the survival of the unity, / let alone the potential to thrive."

I considered what the world would be like today if we were aware of the true impact we have on one another. This may take the golden rule of treating others as you want to be treated to another level. How aware of your impact are you?

The next meaningful quote is:

“Grasp that all emotions are valid. Connect with your own inner wisdom and all-knowing powers. They are inside of you. Allow the messages to reveal themselves to you. Let go of what it is, or what it should be. Embrace the doubts, invite the fear to take the back seat.”

How would you behave differently if you were to believe and act as if you had the answers inside? Or even, how would you access the knowledge within? I’m still grappling with this question myself.

Finally, the following quote got me at a vulnerable time, after I received negative feedback on my EFT post last week, and got a rejection letter on my journaling book proposal. I think any writer or creative person would resonate with it:

“Reject naysayers. Reject greed. Focus on what is present in this moment. Avoid distractions or at least notice when they arise, observe them, and go back to focusing on the present moment.”

After I read this quote, I wanted to consider that the rejection could be a distraction. However, if it was that easy to reject naysayers, my writer’s block would cease to exist.

Please share your thoughts here or on our social media page.

Readers: **18,673**

Login to post comments: [Login/Sign Up](#)

I did not sleep well that night. By the time the alarm rang, I had been up for an hour. I put on my trekking pants, long-sleeve shirt, and sweater. The commute to the park was longer, and I read a few more chapters of “Love at First Share.” I put it back in my backpack before getting off the subway. When I arrived at the park, I saw Jake. He was wearing running shorts and a T-shirt, even though it was early March and a bit chilly. Thankfully, I remembered to bring my blue knitted headband to cover my ears.

“Hey Jake!” We hugged and connected before I asked if he had any news.

“I haven’t found the book yet, but I do have news.”

“Go on.”

“Run first?”

“Sure.” Jake knew how running helped to clear my mind, especially when the sky was blue like today, and I was grateful. We quietly ran Central Park’s Lower Loop—1.71 miles long. With winter ending in a few weeks, I hoped the foliage would come back soon, and the park would look less grim. Afterward, we walked south and found an empty bench to sit down near Columbus Circle.

“I read Headair’s blog post, and found others searching for the crystal book of wisdom on the Dark Web.”

“And?”

“Well, it isn’t available on the Dark Web. The conversations I have tracked so far came to the same conclusion. Either the book exists only on the Lighter Web, or it was made up.”

I felt puzzled. “Lighter Web?”

“Apparently it’s an online platform using a unique browser called Asherah that was developed by a team of healers. It is still in beta, and so far, no one has been able to hack it.”

“Healers? You gotta be kidding me! You know I don’t want anything to do with them.”

“What I’ve heard is that they want to create a mindful web for people to hold space and support each other in exploring ways to live a more empathetic and meaningful life. It seems to be working in parallel to the equiarcky movement.”

“That does sound nice, and I am all for transforming patriarchy and its grips for good. I just don’t trust healers.”

“Let’s not judge until we can access it, right? Besides, that’s where the crystal book is. I will keep digging. Will you reach out to Headair?”

“I will. Could I continue using the anonymous profile you created when I investigated the movement resisting the equiarcky? Nox, untraceable email address nox@protonix.me, and phone number? Are they still good? Or is it time to come up with a new pseudonym?”

“Nox H.B.’s identity is safe.”

Ever since Noah, Jake, and I met during college orientation day years ago, Jake had always been there for me. Now was no different.

“Thanks for your help, Jake. It sounds like there isn’t a short path to finding this book if it even exists.”

“Hey, maybe the journey is all it takes to gain wisdom.”

“Right! You sound like Noah.”

I noticed how Jake grinned when I said that, and it warmed my heart. We rarely shared sweet moments like this when talking about Noah, there was usually so much sadness and yearning.

Jake had a busy day ahead and we went our separate ways. The subway was crowded and I had to stand until it reached Brooklyn. Back home, I visited Headair’s website. I had not heard of her before and spent time on her blog, reading some of her articles. The most shared piece, about the journey she took to heal after a breakup, had been posted nearly seventeen years earlier. I was impressed by how she openly and vulnerably shared her experience. How brave! The post made me think of an email Noah sent me a few years ago after the sudden breakup of my engagement. The pain I felt then was worsened by the shame that I couldn’t make it work, or that I had failed to make myself good enough for him. My first call went to Noah and they answered and stayed present. They listened and told me to take the train to

Coney Island and walk on the beach, setting the intention to let go of what could have been. When I got there I walked barefoot on the sand, breathing, crying, and letting go. Slowly, I felt more grounded and headed home. Later that evening, I received an email from Noah that I held dear, and now it was a good time to reread it:

Dearest Hannah,

I can only imagine how it feels to be in your position. When Sally ended things with me because she had a crush on another woman, you told me something I never forgot. I give it back to you now. "Sally wasn't your person, if she had been, there is no way she would have left this amazing person you are." Take comfort in knowing that Paiden certainly wasn't your person either. The shame you feel is understandable, but no one judges you for anything related to the end of this relationship. I assure you. The strong, smart, caring, and kind person you are remain, no matter what life throws at you. You will find a partner that sees you fully in no time. See yourself through my eyes, and let go of things that aren't real.

With love and support, I see you,

Noah

I felt teary with the reminder that one of the very few people in this world of billions who fully saw me had gone to greener pastures. Shifting my attention back to work, I went to Headair's Contact Us page and filled out the form:

Name: Nox B.

Email: nox@protonix.me

Subject: about the *Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom*

Dear Headair,

*I'm new to your blog and wanted to acknowledge your post "Get over it already – or maybe not."
What a vulnerable way to share your break-up experience and offer support to your readers. No
wonder it is at the top of the list.*

*I'm mainly writing to ask about your post "Sacred Wisdom," which mentioned the Milky Cluster
Crystal Book of Wisdom. In the article, you brought up your source. I've been tasked with
reviewing the book, and have not been able to find it. Would it be possible for you to send my
contact information to your source? I'm writing for Cautious Anonymous, and I believe I could
have a unique perspective. If you'd like more information, feel free to ask. I hope to get in touch
with the book's author or at least with your source soon.*

I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Nox.

To shift my focus, I opened a new tab and searched for Lighter Web. The links I got were not what I was looking for. The results included countless pages of articles listing lightweight browsers. I never heard of or considered using them, and yet good to know to avoid my computer's memory getting maxed out. Once I exhausted the search terms I could think of to no avail, I checked out freelance writer's job sites, figuring I might be let go of the contract if I could not read the book in time. With nothing to do but wait, I decided to cook pizza by making a cauliflower crust from scratch. I got the recipe when Noah and Sally invited Jake, a few other friends, and me to prepare and eat it at their place. Sally chopped the cauliflower using a food processor while two other guests dried it up using a cloth. I mixed the ingredients to prepare the pizza crust, and Jake and Noah took care of the toppings. Very labor intensive. We made a mess and laughed a lot.

I felt grateful I moved to Brooklyn the year before, had a bigger kitchen and more space than the shoebox, pricey walk-up studio I used to live in Manhattan. After chopping the cauliflower in my food processor, I chose to skip the step of drying it. Big mistake. The pizza came out of the oven a bit soggy. I drained it and savored each bite, laughing at myself and thinking of a time I longed for. After lunch, I opened my Nox email in the slight chance there was a response from Headair. Nothing. I picked up *"Love at First Share"* and read a few more chapters. I was curious what would happen next.

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WHAT IS TRUTH?

For the first time since he could remember, River turned off his 6 am alarm and dozed off. It might have been due to the late night watching the news, and feeling uneasy about the rise of the *equiarcky* movement. His upbringing had been very conservative, and he believed in the values represented by the patriarchy. He woke up an hour later and debated if he could keep his morning routine of speed walking, purchasing bacon and eggs to go on the way home, shaving, and showering before heading to the office. Since he still had not written the editor's column for the coming weekend's issue of FN Times, which would come out on Friday, River decided that walking could help him figure out a way to stop the nonsense of the *equiarcky* movement for good. Being an hour late to work was justifiable. In a hurry, he forgot to bring his headphones.

Before leaving Central Park, he stopped near a bench at Columbus Circle to tie his left sneaker. At that moment, River overheard two people sitting on the bench, talking about a crystal book of wisdom. He paid attention as he still carried a painful memory of the unexpected end of a relationship with his girlfriend just a month earlier, because of a crystal. River knew how crystals were formed, having attended two years of college and taking a few Geology electives at the Konservista University. He never believed crystals were more than rock formations. Resisting the urge to say something, he chose instead to jot down some notes on his phone.



River had started as an intern at FN Times after dropping out of college. The newspaper owned by a buddy of his father's provided him with an unexpected career he loved and an outlet for him to debunk anything that could challenge the status quo. Pseudoscience such as crystal powers infuriated him. By demonstrating his loyalty to the CEO and allegiance to the paper's values, River managed to work his way up to staff writer. A few years later, he reached the role of junior editor. In this role, he became increasingly obsessed with elevating the paper's crusade of sustaining the patriarchy. The idea of a crystal book and a Lighter Web made him restless.

During his lunch break, River texted the junior tech support engineer, Bob, to meet him at Burgerlicioso. They had known each other since Bob was an intern. It was rush hour and they had to wait for a table.

"Bob, thanks for joining me. This morning, I heard of a tech space called "Lighter Web". Have you heard of it?"

"No, I haven't. What's that?"

"I don't know either. I've heard something about a mysterious book that exists there."

"I will hunt for it. I know where to look."

"Thanks, Bob, I knew I could count on you. Let's keep it between us for now."

"You got it, boss!"

"Lunch is on me." River paid the check, and they walked back to the office together.

After his assistant left at the end of the day, River locked himself in his office, poured a glass of whisky, and finally had a chance to start searching. He often used his interns to conduct preliminary research, but he was eager to debunk this crystal wisdom rubbish by himself. Searching for what he thought was

the blogger's first name, he typed – Heather's blog – which presented millions of unrelated links. He picked up his phone to check his notes. The next search term – “crystal book of wisdom” and blog – worked. A link to Headair's blog popped up at the top of the search results.

Reading the article in disbelief, and feeling outraged by its statements, he finished his drink without appreciating its robust malty taste and removed his suit jacket. He printed the article and highlighted passages that seemed preposterous to him. Then, he scanned it and added notes to its margins. River was a few days ahead of the publication deadline and chose to send it in any way. He wrote what he wanted his readers to consider as the factual truth.

Editor's Column: Debunking Claims of Crystal Power

It is so baffling that in this day and age of immediate access to truthful information, there are still delusional individuals seeking crystals as if they had special powers. After overhearing a conversation between two hippies at the park this week about a mysterious crystal book, I knew I had to keep you abreast. Thanks to a thorough and meticulous search, I found the blog post that mentioned this book. The messages in the post regarding the likely fake Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom are so vague and overwhelmingly ridiculous that I felt compelled to write about it. Anyone with a brain knows how easy it is to pretend someone knows more than they do. How do you expect readers to trust a book that doesn't even mention its author on the cover? The blogger Headair is an irrelevant writer trying to make a name for herself with unfounded messaging. The quotes provided sound like brainwashing, to convince everyone that living in Lalaland is the way to go.

I will not stay silent. Headair claims to want to empower readers, but, in reality, she is just running another hoax to discredit your conservative values, gain more followers, and carelessly and ignorantly further the equiarcky's agenda without thinking of its consequences. When I read it, I knew immediately that she needed to be held responsible for her actions. Blocked from subscribing, I could not comment on her previous post about EFT (extreme fake theories?). Believe it or not, Headair



had the nerve to say that EFT, or “tapping” as she also called it, transformed her anxiety. You are going to tell me that tapping your face liberates you from this illness and the well-researched biological responses to your environment? What’s next? Drinking warm lemon water in the morning makes you wise? These are unproven trends that try to challenge the pharmaceutical industry, which generates trillions in revenue and employs millions.

This week the blogger introduced a woo-woo theory about crystals that does nothing but create false hope in an attempt to make people feel better about themselves and their shortcomings.

Real life requires creating opportunities and pursuing advantages to get ahead, no matter the means. You, the reader of this column, who surround yourself with like-minded individuals, won’t trust any of those claims. I know you choose to be realistic about who to follow and who speaks the truth bluntly while those with no scruples create pretenses and illusions that there are good people who don’t want anything in return for their services. There is no such thing, and you know it.

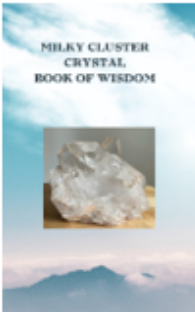


Who is with me in bringing Headair and her “News” business down? If you can subscribe to her blog, then post comments to alert her followers, in the slightest chance she has any, to come to the right side. Sooner or later, she may convince subscribers that eating burgers is bad for you, taking any medication is harmful, and to survive you must plant your own seeds. I did not have a chance to dig too deep, but it would not surprise me if she wrote claims against GMOs without considering the benefits they bring to end world hunger.

The fact that Headair claims that the Milky Cluster Cristal Book of Wisdom exists, even when she has never read it, discredits everything else that she has written before. I am starting an investigation to find this book. So far, I heard that the book is available on a network not accessible to the general public, which made me even more suspicious.

In the meantime, I will continue to help you see reality for what it is and show you how to stop dreaming about imaginary unproven solutions to the nation’s daily problems.

Don’t take only my word for it. Here is the article, copied from Headair’s blog. I took the liberty to highlight the top hokey claims and comment on the sidebar.



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The first quote is:

"In a relationship of crystals connected to each other, all parts are aware of the vital elements that they carry and how essential each element is for the survival of the unity, let alone the potential to thrive."

I considered what the world would be like today if we were aware of the true impact we have on one another. This may take the golden rule of treating others as you want to be treated to another level. How aware of your impact are you?

1000 new subscribers? Where is the proof?

It seems like both the book and source are made up.

How can you trust someone who claims to be altruistic but doesn't reveal themselves?

Channeled? Yeah, right! Any person with half a brain knows that there is no such thing. BTW, what makes it sacred? What does it mean?

A cluster of crystals is formed based on climate, minerals, and environmental forces. The pieces are connected as they are formed in nature, there is no awareness there!

The next meaningful quote is:

"Grasp that all emotions are valid. Connect with your own inner wisdom and all-knowing powers. They are inside of you. Allow the messages to reveal themselves to you. Let go of what it is, or what it should be. Embrace the doubts, invite the fear to take the back seat."

How would you behave differently if you were to believe and act as if you had the answers inside? Or even, how would you access the knowledge within? I'm still grappling with this question myself.

Finally, the following quote got me at a vulnerable time, after I received negative feedback on my EFT post last week, and got a rejection letter on my journaling book proposal. I think any writer or creative person would resonate with it:

"Reject naysayers. Reject greed. Focus on what is present in this moment. Avoid distractions or at least notice when they arise, observe them, and go back to focusing on the present moment."

After I read this quote, I wanted to consider that the rejection could be a distraction. However, if it was that easy to reject naysayers, my writer's block would cease to exist.

Readers:

Login to post comments:

Editor's Column Comments Closed.

What? This sounds like a cult!

Only weak links have doubts.

Fears are to be faced head-on, and overcome with strength not emotion.

This crystal talk will increase the rejection, get ready, lady. This whole post is ridiculous.

Reject greed? How weak is that? Greed is the main symbol of ambition and what drives our economy.

Naysayers or truthsayers?

Once River submitted the article, he served himself another glass of whisky and stared at the black tourmaline rock on his desk. A gift from a former classmate, George, who had graduated with honors, and worked for the oil industry as a trainee and later as a highly valued geologist. Despite River's resentment at the university's changes that led him to drop out, he considered George an ally in spreading the truth. The rock, which based on River's studies had a hardness above 7 on the Mohr's scale, had a rough texture, and served as a symbol of his masculinity and strength.



After enjoying his drink for a long while, River searched unsuccessfully for the *Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom*. Some of the articles he found, describing crystal powers, left him flabbergasted and discontented. With so many unproven theories circulating as truth, he knew how invaluable his voice would be in keeping his perception of reality at the forefront. He was restless and could not wait to hear back from Bob.

He left the office and stopped by Extreme Pizza to pick up dinner, before driving to the Upper West Side where he lived. With his mind spinning with ideas about what the Lighter Web could be and what it would mean to the world as is, he wrote some notes on his phone.

Lighter Web

If login is needed use - Lake Rock and lakerock@protonix.me. Use an untraceable VoIP number.

Find out how the business is run, who the board members are, and who I can gain confidence from.

Activate AI-generated trolls to comment on message boards, news sites, and anywhere that allows for responses.

Attack the reputation of the Lighter Web's leaders and subsequently of its users.

Brainstorm conspiracy theories to elevate the mistrust on the Lighter Web.

Have senior correspondents generate lingo that is repeated over and over in FN articles and social media.

River created a cloud document to brainstorm with his closest pals a specific lingo that would work as a conspiracy theory about the Lighter Web that could stick. He waited to hear back from Bob before sharing the link: <https://bit.ly/DestroybyRiver> with his Patriarchy Stand group chat.

THE SEARCH CONTINUES

It took a couple of days until I got a reply to the email I sent Headair. I was about to contact Cautious Anonymous to ask for a deadline extension when I checked my private email. I had a reply.

Subject: RE: FW: about the *Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom*

Dear Nox,

Thank you for your interest in the Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom. The book was published on the Lighter Web, and it is not available on the Surface Web. It was important for us to share the passages published by Headair, and introduce folks to the concepts in the book. I'm glad she included her interpretation of the teachings, which was the whole point of sharing. I would be happy to chat with you about it, although I won't be able to give you the actual book.

The source.

This signature irked me. Although to be fair, I too was using a pseudonym. I decided to go for a walk to clear my head before responding. It seemed to me like it was all a complete hoax, and The Source had made it up to get recognition. If that was the case, though, why be anonymous? So many questions.

I got distracted by the noise pollution of traffic, sirens, and honks during rush hour, and could not concentrate or clear my head. The "fresh air" strategy did not work. I stopped by a Brazilian deli and grabbed pão de queijo and oranges. Only after I had a full stomach, I responded to the email. Should I assume the person's name was Source? How could I reply? I chose not to greet them.

RE: RE: FW: about the *Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom*

Thank you for your prompt response. Would you be open to a phone call? You can reach me at 555-753-7842. What's your time zone and the best time to reach you? I am available anytime today if you would like to call back.

Thanks,

Nox.

I emailed my VoIP phone number, making it easier to screen the call. The phone rang momentarily.

"Hello, this is Nox."

"Hi Nox, this is Maya. I thought I'd minimize the back and forth and give you a call. How can I help you?"

"Thanks for calling."

"You are welcome."

There was a short pause on the call before I asked a question.

"The editor of Cautious Anonymous hired me to review the Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom after she read Headair's article. Would it be possible to get a copy of it? Who is the author?"

"The book is not available on the surface web, and the author called themselves the Wise One."

"Wise One? Who is that?" I asked and imagined that Noah would have gotten a kick out of it.

"The committee that created the Lighter Web, where the book can be accessed via a browser called Asherah, chose to call their leader Wise One instead of CEO. That role is rotated as needed, and anyone can have a chance to lead at any given point. It adapted self-management practices to minimize (and someday eliminate) biases. The book was channeled by the Wise One at the helm at the time of publishing, and likely there is a new Wise One leader now."

"Channeled? What does that mean?"

“The Wise One cleared their mind and intuitively allowed the messages from the cluster crystal to inspire their writing.”

“Interesting, and a bit beyond what I believe.” I didn’t buy the idea of channeling. Although Noah invited me to go with them to a channeled session with one of their healers, I never did.

“Don’t discard it until you have a chance to read the book in full.”

“I’ll try not to. Could I get access to it via the Asherah browser?”

“You eventually will. It may take some time for you to access it as it is still in beta. Could you write an article from the quotes, and include your interpretation of them?”

“I’m sure I could but I have to tell you that I’m a bit skeptical.” There was a pause before Maya responded, but I had to be honest.

“Write from that point of view. Keep in mind that the information in the book, as you can tell from the quotes, may seem common sense, and it may take an open mind to notice its nuances beyond reason.”

“I’m not sure I’m the right person for it.”

“You are. I suggest that you sit with each quote, meditate on them, and write your perspective. You can let your readers know that you plan to review the book soon, and for now, you could reflect on the quotes and provide your conclusions.”

I paused for a moment.

“Well, I appreciate the confidence. Could you share your thoughts on the first quote “In a relationship of crystals connected to each other, all parts are aware of the vital elements that they carry and how essential each element is for the survival of the unity, let alone the potential to thrive.”? I think your opinion could help.”

“What do you think it means?”

I think it’s all BS. “Something like we are all connected?”

“Yes, it is a metaphor for the fact that the universal elements of life are impacting one another, in imperceptible and visible ways. This may include thought patterns, actions, geographical location, interactions, and agency, and it includes fauna, flora, humans, and the environment at large.”

“Isn’t that obvious? Aren’t you describing quantum phenomena?”

“It certainly is obvious, and pretty much all information in the Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom is obvious.”

“What’s the point, then?” The whole thing sounded pointless to me.

“The point is that the Wise One took the time to share this wisdom in a book format so that it can inspire seekers to keep evolving and building their awareness.”

“I see, thanks. I’m curious why you signed the email as the source.”

“Until we are ready to open the Asherah browser to all, and allow access to the Lighter Web, it is best to safeguard the members’ identities. Soon, we hope, this will no longer be the case. I ask you to please use “the source”, or you can make up a fictitious name when referring to me.”

“Thanks for clarifying, I get it, and I will.”

“Since we are still testing the Lighter Web, I’d like to give you an extra quote that I didn’t have a chance to share with Headair. Would that be okay with you?”

“Please do.”

Maya read the quote, pausing often to give Hannah a chance to write it down.

“Parts abruptly cut from the source may originally grieve the loss of that connection. As the pain shifts it is felt and transformed and there is space for remembrance connection and carrying on with parts of that soul that no longer exist Finding peace from a space of knowing and love”

“Wow, I will have to reflect on that one. I appreciate your time. May I reach out to you if I have other questions?”

“Yes, no problem.”

“Thank you”.

“You are welcome. Bye for now.”

“Bye.”

I reflected on the conversation. It sounded reasonable to read the quotes and then reflect on them.

Being friends with Noah made me consider the power of crystals, for a moment in time at least. Still, I doubted that people could listen to a crystal and receive messages. Maya did seem a reasonable person and didn't judge as I did. With my deadline approaching, I put my intrinsic skepticism aside. While Maya trusted I knew what to do, I was not so sure. I felt anxious and uneasy about her request. What would it mean to meditate with a quote? I went to the kitchen and grabbed the mint chocolate chip ice cream. Eating it would not give me the answer. It could for certain ease or numb my stress, though.

Before figuring out how to meditate with a quote, I thought it was weird how the author called themselves Wise One. Isn't it a bit self-aggrandizing? And who doesn't take credit for their work? They might have wanted to keep their identity hidden so as not to be ridiculed for their claims of channeling crystal wisdom. I went back to NeniujKuketoj.com and searched for Wise One. There were many references to a crossword puzzle clue, four letters. There was also a reference to John Coltrane's song "Wise One" recorded in 1964. I did not find the Wise One I was looking for. No surface web presence discussing the leadership of the Lighter Web either.

Learning to meditate with a quote seemed like the only path. I thought of contacting one of Noah's alternative healers for meditation suggestions. However, it was hard for me not to hold them in part responsible for Noah's untimely demise. I decided to search for answers online once again. When I typed meditation for... even before I wrote skeptics, that option appeared in the drop-down menu.

I did not feel like reading about the benefits of meditation, or that guided meditations are best for beginners. I wasn't a total beginner, there were those few times I went to meditation circles with Noah, although meditations as short as 10 minutes felt too long.

I found something promising, a short video by Pema Chödrön called "Non-meditation." My enthusiasm lasted a few seconds, as there was no such thing. She did have some interesting advice about breathing and being attentive to an object, or a part of the body. Then, I searched for ways to meditate with a quote. I found many lists of meditation quotes to inspire one to meditate. Not what I needed!

I was no closer to finding the book than any other reader of Headair's article, and I hoped no one else had reached out to her or Maya yet. I thought of updating Jake about my progress but decided to write the article first. I took into consideration the videos I watched, and my previous meditation experience, and came up with a strategy:

- ✓ Write each quote on a separate piece of paper.
- ✓ Read the quote out loud.
- ✓ Set a timer for 4 minutes and close my eyes, as I reflect on the quote.
- ✓ When time is up, write down the thoughts that came up.

I read the first quote and closed my eyes. After the timer went off, I wrote down what came up for me. The discussion with Maya about the first quote expanded my way of thinking. I repeated the same steps with the remaining three quotes. Instead of letting the editor know about my progress, I chose to put all my energy into writing a good exposé with the information I gathered and my own somewhat skeptical

thoughts. Reflecting on the channeled aspect of the book, I opted not to mention it at this time. I wanted to be able to connect with the author and discuss their methods before posting the third-party information I heard so far.

I felt exhausted and went to bed. The night was a bit restless, as the quotes and messages kept popping into my head. Resisting the urge to write, I made mental notes of how to introduce the quotes and went back to sleep.

In the morning, I drank a cup of coffee before sitting down to type. New ideas came up, and after writing the first draft, I printed it out and edited it. It took a few times until it was ready. I explained the situation to my editor in an email and attached the article.

Subject: RE: Book Review

Chris,

The bad news is that I could not gain access to the book or its author. The good news is that I managed to talk to Headair's source, got an extra quote, and more information about the Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom.

The search continues, and I ask you to give me some time to write a follow-up article. I have a friend helping me find the book.

I'm attaching my column, with the beginning of the puzzle pieces, to this email.

Hannah.

As the publication day approached, Chris did not have much time to spare. I expected, or hoped, to hear from her soon, especially if edits were needed.

Then, I left my computer sound on to hear the beep in case an email came in, and went back to reading the *Love at First Share* book. I did not get too far, as I heard a response come in.

Subject: RE: RE: Book Review

Hannah,

We are pleased with your article and will work with the design team to come up with a graphic for it. Excellent idea to collect people's responses to the quotes in private. The article will be posted on Friday.

Your request to continue the search for the Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom is approved.

Remember to use our resources as needed.

Best regards,

*Chris Kat.
Cautious Anonymous, Editor*

CAUTIOUS ANONYMOUS

Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom



By Nox H.B.

After reading Headair's post (you can find it [here](#)) about the *Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom*, I searched for the book online and at the local library and found no trace of it. I reached out to Headair who promptly connected me to her source. From the phone conversation I had with Headair's source, I learned that the book can be accessed via a new browser called Asherah. Unfortunately, it is still in beta, and I won't be able to access it for now. The author's name is anonymous, which makes it harder to verify the book's authenticity or learn the process it took to write it, something I am very dubious about. Short of knowing the full story, I attempted to reflect on the three quotes shared by Headair.

In addition, her source gave me a fourth quote, which made me emotional, you will soon realize why. My process included reading each quote out loud, setting a timer for 4 minutes while I reflected on it with my eyes closed, and then taking notes. I'm reposting, with permission, the quotes in the original order received. Following each of them are my reflections and attempts to interpret them pragmatically.

“In a relationship of crystals connected to each other, all parts are aware of the vital elements that they carry and how essential each element is for the survival of the unity, let alone the potential to thrive.”

Is it an example of the fact that we are connected? If we replace the crystals with humans, it means that each of us needs to be aware of our presence and our actions and to understand how the presence, behavior, and actions of others can impact our well-being. This is not a stretch from wanting to cause no harm, and it certainly seems common knowledge. We might need to consider the impact we have on the environment and the one it has on us. It seems obvious, yet, an interesting way to put it. It makes me reflect on how I choose to exist in the world.

“Grasp that all emotions are valid. Connect with your own inner wisdom and all-knowing powers. They are inside of you. Allow the messages to reveal themselves to you. Let go of what it is, or what it should be. Embrace the doubts, invite the fear to take the back seat.”

This quote has many layers, and it sounds like something a friend of mine (R.I.P.) would say. It is a reminder to feel our feelings—easier said than done— and to connect with our

intuition, although it does not explain how. By pausing with each sentence, I imagine I connected with my so-called “inner wisdom.” It seems obvious that it is inside of us, and I am going to attempt to let mine guide my process. In terms of fear taking the back seat, I remember the *Big Magic* book by Elizabeth Gilbert, you may have read my review a few years ago. She suggests that while the fear never goes away, it should sit in the back, and not drive our cars/lives. It makes sense, though hard to do when fear becomes crippling, such as when we learn of a close friend losing their battle with a terminal illness.

“Reject naysayers. Reject greed. Focus on what is present in this moment. Avoid distractions or at least notice when they arise, observe them, and go back to focusing on the present moment.”

I am not sure about rejecting naysayers, sometimes they teach us something useful. I do agree that the world has been messy for centuries because of excessive greed. Maybe the answer is to find ways to shift it and not reject it outright. I have a hard time avoiding distractions and need tools to help. I use the Pomodoro method often, with an app to assist in staying focused for 25-minute chunks at a time.

If you are grieving, consider either skipping the following quote or being gentle with yourself as you read it. I do not think the goal is to minimize our pain, but it does somewhat feel like it. If you choose to read it, keep an open mind.

“The clearer one gets about the intention to see clearly the deeper the knowing is. Some parts abruptly cut from the source may originally grieve the loss of that connection. As the pain shifts, it is felt and transformed, and there is space for remembrance, connection, and carrying on with parts of that soul that no longer exist. Finding peace from a space of knowing and love.”

As I’m still grieving the loss of my friend, this quote gave me pause. Is it talking about being cut off from someone we love? When death comes, who is the source, and who is the grieving part? To me, the part abruptly cut from the source is my friend’s death. Or am I the part cut from the source? Is the source in this case our friendship? If that is the case, I resonate with it. I mourn and think of my friend daily, and I have no doubt I carry some of their traits. But I have a hard time believing that they still exist somewhere. I am looking forward to, as the quote mentioned, a time when I find peace.

The C.A. team and I will continue our search so that I can review and post my overall opinion of the book in its entirety. Meanwhile, we would like to learn your thoughts about the aforementioned quotes as well. Follow this [link](#) to send us your reflections. When we get access to the book and its author, I plan to review the responses we receive from you, and consider them for my next post about the *“Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom”*.

Once the article was live, I emailed the link to Jake and sent a text.

Jake, how are you? I emailed you the article I just sent to C.A.

That's great, congrats! I'll read it now.

Very thoughtful interpretations of those quotes, way to go in honoring Noah! They would be proud.

I'm glad you think so

I do! I need to sit with the last one for a while.

I'll likely need to revisit it again at some point, as well..

Any news?

Not yet. I'm working on it.

Thanks

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OUTRAGE AND EMPATHY

On Friday, Headair, her husband Lanon, and their teenage sons ate breakfast together, a ritual they tried to keep during the week, as the teens slept late on weekends. The spread included toast, peanut butter, scrambled eggs, coffee, and a fruit salad. The teens were going on a weekend camping trip with their school and were encouraged to eat well. Headair handed them the school's checklist (with one edit) of things to bring and insisted that they double-check everything.

- ✓ Sunblock
- ✓ ~~Bug Repellent~~ - Citronella essential oil
- ✓ Hat
- ✓ Swimsuits
- ✓ Sweater
- ✓ Sunglasses – and Prescription Glasses
- ✓ Underwear
- ✓ Pants and shorts
- ✓ T-shirts
- ✓ Socks
- ✓ Sneakers
- ✓ Flipflops
- ✓ Cash in case of emergency
- ✓ Cellphone chargers
- ✓ Toothpaste
- ✓ Toothbrush
- ✓ Soap and Shampoo
- ✓ Deodorant
- ✓ Map of the hike
- ✓ Booklet about camping in the woods
- ✓ Sleeping bags

Once they showed up with their backpacks, they hugged their mom and assured her that they had packed it all. Lanon drove them to school to catch the 8:30 am camping bus before heading to work at the bank.

Headair cleaned up the kitchen, poured herself another cup of coffee, and turned on the laptop in her home office. Their morning routine had gone well, and she anticipated a great day to write a follow-up post. Earlier in the week, the Lighter Web committee agreed to let her read the *Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom* on Maya's computer so that she could continue to write about it. The committee planned to give her access, bypassing the lightwall, once the beta testing process was complete. Having access to the Lighter Web and the book gave Headair a better idea of what it was about. She copied a few more quotes from the book and the excitement to write about them and further explain the book's source grew.

Her morning was dedicated to writing until lunchtime, as she had coaching appointments in the afternoon. She checked her emails and read an alert with links to articles by Nox H.B. and by River Stone, mentioning her latest article. They seemed to have been published nearly at the same time that morning. Headair followed the link to Nox's piece and thought her reflections were relevant. Nox's point of view was more suspicious than hers but still valid. She emailed the link to her source and friend knowing Maya would like to read it.

Next, she braced herself and clicked on the second link. As she read "Debunking Claims of Crystal Power" Headair had to pause and breathe, feeling her blood boiling in anger. Naturally, the tension built up on her neck and shoulders. The attempt to destroy her integrity and worth was obvious. Thinking on her feet, she closed comments on the crystal article. Then she hid the subscription button for now and planned to explain why in a new post. Writing the post about the new quotes she read would have to

wait. Finally, she knew she needed help to calm down. She called Maya, who doubled up as her empathy partner.

“Hello, Headair, how are you?”

“Hey Maya. Nox’s article came out nice. It will help create the awareness the Wise One wants.”

“I agree! I read your email just now, thanks for sending the link. You sound stressed, what’s going on?”
Maya could tell by Headair’s tone of voice that she was not doing so well.

“Could I vent for a bit?”

“Yes, I’m listening.”

“Well, that jerk River Stone of FN Times wrote a piece about my article and called the old boys club to ruin my reputation. What’s worse, he is challenging the quotes as if they were mine, when I clearly stated where they came from. Why would he do that? I’m such a small fish compared to FN Times.”

“That guy!” Maya knew not to interject too much.

“I’m glad he couldn’t post comments – we blocked FNTimes accounts after the last uncalled-for troll attack we had from them. Before calling you, I paused new subscriptions. Not that I couldn’t handle petty messages... I may not be able to manage if a bunch of them come at the same time. On Monday, my team will be able to sort it out and decide who to block and who is genuinely interested in a meaningful exchange.”

“Good strategy!”

“Thanks. I’m boiling in anger.”

“Would you like some empathy guesses? ”

“That’s why I called.”

“There are so many possibilities. I’ll start with one and we go from there, OK?”

“Mhm.” Headair waited for Maya to start guessing.

“Do you feel angry because your need for respect was not met?”

“YEP!”

“Are you also feeling fearful about your reputation and business? And your need for safety?”

“Oh yes – the fear is real. Can you imagine if it escalates and puts my family in danger for nothing?”

“I can’t. It’s part of the old order and River’s MO. Exactly the kind of attitude and behavior the Lighter Web is trying to change. I’m also wondering if your need to be seen for who you are was not met and it left you feeling rattled and flustered.”

“Let me sit with the need to be seen for a moment...”

Maya waited patiently in silence, while Headair reflected on it.

...It does fit.”

“Can we do the needs exercise?” Maya suggested a tool that could make a difference in this moment.

“Mhm.”

Maya and Headair had done similar exercises together before, and Headair knew to sit comfortably, close her eyes, and follow the prompts as Maya spoke.

“Close your eyes and breathe. Consider a situation when you felt truly seen.

Take your time.

You don’t need to say anything. Remember where you were – outside? Inside? Sitting? Standing? And experience that moment as if it was happening now.

Are you by yourself or with company?

What smells are you sensing? What do you hear?

What else can you notice about that moment?

How does it feel to experience being fully seen?

Hold on to that feeling and come back to this moment.

Open your eyes.”

Headair felt her neck tension easing throughout the meditation. She stayed quiet for a moment longer, before sharing. Maya allowed the silence to linger for as long as needed.

“I’ve always loved this exercise. I thought of the time when you shared with me that you were part of the committee starting the Lighter Web. You asked for my thoughts, and you fully listened. You made me feel seen and appreciated. I’m starting to calm down a bit.”

“We could repeat the exercise for the other needs of respect and safety if you’d like.”

“You know me so well! By addressing the root – which you nailed, I feel much better. I’m ready to try to empathize with River.”

“Would you like to make some empathy guesses or would you like me to do it?” Maya prepared to listen and hold space.

“He is an unloved awful monster who doesn’t deserve our empathy.”

Maya respectfully laughed. “That’s good. Keep going with all the judgments you have – we can empathize later.”

“I bet he didn’t even bother to check my credentials. When he attacked EFT he did not take the time to read the footnotes or do any research. As we both know, even the National Library of Medicine

published a scientific study about its merits, just one of the thousands of studies out there. Or even simpler, he could have tried it on himself.”

“He could have done any of those things.” Maya again held space for Headair to express herself freely.

“He had the nerve to include an ad for anxiety pills, how more obvious could he be?” Headair was not against AnxyLess pills, but it was disconcerting that River included that specific ad.

“Ha. Pretty obvious.”

“And then he had the audacity to republish my article with his petty comments.”

“Those guys think they can get away with anything, and they have the means to do anything to save the patriarchy. As if it was worth saving.”

“It’s unnerving but I’ll use my voice to protect myself.”

“Bravo!”

After venting a bit, Headair experienced an opening and allowed herself to empathize with River.

“It sounds to me that his need for competence isn’t being met.”

“That’s possible.”

“He may be trying to meet his need for community by embracing this lost cause and getting supporters – I guess he needs support as well.”

“The list could go on and on. How about feeling guesses?”

“By the tone of his article, I’d say dismayed, disgusted, hateful, outraged.”

“Maybe even uncomfortable by things he doesn’t know or care to understand?”

“I bet! I believe I can work with this to write a more neutral response. Do you think it’s a good idea to invite him to meet?”

“It is!” Maya’s response was encouraging. “The Lighter Web intends to bring people together on the web, but for lasting change to occur, things need to happen outside the web as well. One of the strategies our beta testers will be trying is to invite people with different points of view for conversations and to listen and empathize without having an agenda. Simply to build a connection and find common ground. This approach has shown positive results in canvassing efforts.”

“I will invite him to meet then. Can I run my thoughts by you if he agrees? We could have a mock conversation to help me prepare.”

“I’d be happy to do it. Send me the article before you post it.”

“Thank you, I’ll email it to you once I’m done.”

“Talk soon.”

“Bye.”

Before typing her response, Headair used the Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT - a.k.a. “tapping”), one of the tools that helped her in the past. She tapped the side of her left hand—the karate chop point—with her right fingers, personalized the EFT setup statement, and said aloud: *Even though I’m concerned for mine and my family’s safety, I deeply and completely love and accept myself.* Then, she continued with the tapping of the eight meridian points making statements based on how she was feeling, such as, *I’m freaking out, I’m anxious, My heart is beating fast, I’m worried.* She repeated the exercise three times and started feeling better and calmer. Back at her computer, she wrote a follow-up to the Sacred Wisdom article and an invite for River. Before posting, she emailed it to Maya. While she waited to hear back, she called Lanon to vent. He listened and asked what she needed. Headair emailed him the article as well. Both Maya and Lanon made minor editing suggestions but ultimately approved it. Lanon was not comfortable with his wife going to meet River alone, and she reassured him that Maya would come along and stay at another table. That eased his discomfort.

This article was shorter than usual; Headair’s main objective, to reach River, did not require a long message. Plus, she figured he did not care to read long posts and might not read to the end. Working diligently to let go of any attachments to receiving a response from him, or of what it would look like, she formatted the article for her website and posted it.

Follow Up

I am grateful to everyone engaging in conversation about last week's post – “Sacred Wisdom”. My intention in sharing about the *Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom* was to elevate our hearts and minds. The quotes have a depth that I would like to incorporate into my life. How about you? As Hannah Blues mentioned in her [article](#), the book is available on the Lighter Web, currently in beta.

This week, my source invited me to read the book and take a peek at the Lighter Web. I understand that the testing time is a crucial phase for what they are proposing to accomplish. I am eager to join when the time comes and patiently await my turn. For now, I can share that the book is available through the Asherah browser's e-reader, and it is not downloadable. The book states common knowledge, in a way that makes the reader pause and take responsibility for their actions towards themselves and others. The book's author is anonymous on purpose—a way to show that answers can be found within us. Any of us has the capacity, if we so choose, to open ourselves up to receiving that kind of inspiration.

Another article referring to “Sacred Wisdom” published this morning attacked my integrity and intentions. I confess I felt pain in my chest, worry, and anger. I had to take time to feel my feelings. I felt discombobulated and realized I couldn't self-empathize—I needed help. I reached out to my empathy partner who helped me navigate my emotions.

The process took less than twenty minutes: a) she held space for me to vent; b) she helped me connect with my feelings and the needs that had not been met; c) we came up with a strategy to move forward. That conversation gave me some breathing room to write this article from a grounded and calm place. Only then, I could consider what the author might be going through, or be concerned with, to write such confrontational words.

You may have noticed that our subscription is paused for now. I assure you that we will reopen it in no time. I will not allow comments on this article either but feel free to send me a note via one of our social media platforms. I will check them regularly today, and again on Monday. I intend to take a computer break this weekend.

And here is an invitation: River Stone, if you are reading this article, I would like to invite you for coffee this Tuesday. You can fill out the Contact Us form, with the times you are available, and I will get back to you with the details.

Once posted, Headair decided to marinate the chicken for dinner with Lanon. He had shared his favorite smothered chicken recipe with her a couple of weeks earlier, and cooking it would take her mind off things. She had a few virtual life coaching clients scheduled for the afternoon, and preparing dinner in advance was what she needed to be in the right headspace. Then, she got ready for her meetings by grounding herself, holding an amethyst crystal in her left hand, and reading her clients' check-in forms.



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BLOCKED

Bob did not get back to River for several days. River only heard back after the weekend issue was published on Friday morning.

RE: Confidential

From: jtech@fntimes.news

To: me

Boss,

It took a while. I used several back channels to find information about the Lighter Web. It exists in a secure web environment—a browser called Asherah. The developers call themselves “healers” and claim they are creating an alternative way for people to communicate with each other. The creators have gone to great lengths to verify people’s identities and screen for users’ “authentic” intentions. Each person gets a nontransferable package in the mail after completing a questionnaire. It wouldn’t work if I gained access and sent you the link. You will need to do it and follow the path required. For now, they are still beta-testing the system. My colleague who was part of the testing didn’t want to share it with me, but after much convincing—he owed me a favor—he shared the [link](#) and a unique password: Light123. Ah, before I forget, they are sticklers for honesty.

Bob

FNTimes

River called Bob’s extension.

“Hey Bob, I just got your email. Are you buying this bullshit?”

“It looks legit, the guy is solid.”

“How can they assure someone’s identity?” River was not buying it.

“I don’t know what kind of technology they specifically use, but nowadays with facial recognition software on every device and trackpads on laptops, it isn’t hard to do.”

“Right, damn it. Give me a call if you find anything else.”

“Sure thing, boss.”

Instead of following the link right away, River forwarded the message to his personal email address, opting to try to access the Lighter Web from home. He figured gaining access could help him write next week’s column. Whatever happened, he could fully debunk the fake news from Headair’s article and expose her for good. He intended to uncover who was behind the Lighter Web and bring them down. After work, he went out with his coworkers for their customary Friday night sports bar hangout. He drank scotch on the rocks and chatted with the staff writers who showed up and with Bob. They had agreed not to discuss work after hours.

On Saturday, while nursing his hangover with coffee, River turned on his laptop, activated his VPN, and opened his private email account. He clicked on the Asherah link Bob sent him, but the questionnaire did not show up. He was blocked from accessing it.



SORRY, YOU HAVE BEEN BLOCKED

Possible reasons:

1. You attempted to access this site with a VPN IP address. Please disable your VPN to proceed.
2. You returned to this page prior to the completion of the wait period after your first attempt. Please be patient and consider reading about and practicing self-development practices. Check out AskOthersTrustYourself.com as one option. Feel free to find your own path, there are many.

Before reading what it said, he tried to use other browsers, getting the same result. River skimmed to reason number 1 and did not read any further. Realizing there was no choice, River painstakingly closed all his open tabs to unsavory sites. Then, he cleared his web history, deleted cookies, and hesitantly disconnected the VPN.

He refilled his coffee before starting over. Bob's email was still open, and he clicked on the link. This time, the button to run the questionnaire was clickable. River decided to use his codename – Lake Rock and started the process.

Welcome to Asherah Access!

Full name: Lake Rock

The system accepted his codename, and he felt optimistic about his chances of accessing the Lighter Web. The next question showed up:

The Lighter Web:

What would you like to gain from accessing the Lighter Web? - lowercase, please

His first thought was to answer: *I want to debunk this lie and make you pay for the false hope and delusions you perpetuate.*

However, River realized he better play the role and pretend real interest. He typed a short answer.

I'm curious, since I don't know what you offer, and would like to learn.

Based on his response, the system did not grant him permission to move forward with the questionnaire:

'Please continue your self-development practice and come back in six months.'

He cursed repeatedly. Although his response had not been fully honest, he did want to learn what the Lighter Web was about. He felt betrayed by it even more. What a nerve to ask him to come back in six months! There must be another way. River decided to delete his cookies and any temporary files once again. He restarted the laptop and refilled his coffee.

When the computer was back on, River opened his email on a different browser and clicked on Bob's link. To his surprise, the message "you have been blocked" showed up again. He was confused since the VPN was off.



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He read the second reason in disbelief. How dare they ask him, of all people, to work on self-development. What does that even mean? River felt outraged, and his impetuous attitude was to add to the conspiracy theory document a few more deceitful theories. He then posted on the Patriarchy Stand group chat:

Attention: My FN's editor column yesterday attempted to undo the damages caused by a lowlife blogger's post. This week we continued investigating her claims. Today I was blocked from accessing the browser that hosts the Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom. Fake much? Trust me when I say that I'm not done. I will find a way to access it, no matter what. I need your help! Immediately. Let's work on the perfect message that can take down this privileged, secluded, highly suspicious business. Follow this link: <https://bit.ly/DestroybyRiver> today and make as many suggestions as you can. We must unite to eliminate the Lighter Web and its equiarcky efforts for good. Once you are done, reply to this message and let us know. I will curate it and choose one or two for us to start spreading and repeating everywhere.

River felt a sense of relief by recruiting his pals. He knew they would not fail him. As they knew they could count on him. He used his access to FN's CEO on multiple occasions to further the agenda of his friends. They owed a lot to him and now was as good a time as any to show their loyalty and help him with this vital cause. He felt like a genius.

Not wanting to wait in a vacuum, he turned his VPN back on to check the news and searched for anyone sharing his article or talking about it. Astonishingly, he noticed that Headair had mentioned his article on her blog.

River read the article and started venting to no one—how dare she respond to him this way! If she was serious about meeting, he would know if she was real or not, and he could have more grounds to knock her down based on their exchange. Before responding to her invite, he posted on the Patriarchy Stand group chat again:

Attention: The coward who talked about the Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom last week closed comments and new subscriptions after she read my article. In a way, it is a win for us, isn't it? The fewer people following her the better. She wants to meet this Tuesday. I will let you know how it goes. For now, keep sharing your ideas to help us destroy the Lighter Web here: <https://bit.ly/DestroybyRiver>

A few hours later, he filled out the Contact Us page:

Name: River Stone

Email: jeditor@fntimes.com

Subject: meeting

Headair,

I don't know what's your play, but I'll bite. I can meet at 8 am on Tuesday or at 5:30 pm, preferably on the Lower East Side.

River.

GATEWAY I

Determined to find the crystal book for Hannah after she sent him her article, Jake continued searching on the Dark Web. His work at the nonprofit WiFiAll served an important purpose, with at times a high cost. Its mission to provide a safe space and platform for journalists to communicate and post news anonymously, especially in countries with high censorship and surveillance, matched Jake's desire to protect press members while making sure their voices could be heard worldwide. This goal had begun forming in Jake's childhood.

Jake and his parents, Carlos and Gabriela, immigrated when he was ten years old from Kateno in South America. A few months before their move, Carlos's dear friend Pedro died in a car accident. His death happened soon after Pedro and Carlos started reporting openly about the local government's practices. Those who knew Pedro well, including Carlos, considered foul play. Pedro, always ready to take Jake on investigative adventures and teach him about ethics and freedom, held a special place in his heart. This sudden death embedded in Jake a desire to protect journalists' lives, which only intensified with the heightened knowledge about oppressive regimes as he grew older.

Unfortunately, WiFiAll's platform existed in the Dark Web, the only known tool at the time that could provide the level of encryption and anonymity needed to keep its users safe. This exposed Jake and his colleagues to the darkest sides of humanity, even though they did not engage. The Dark Web's many marketplaces offering shady practices, including sexual violence content, the sale of illegal drugs and guns, and the publication of conspiracy theories and fake news, could be seen through banner ads and sponsored links every time he accessed the browser to login to his WiFiAll account.

Jake approved and posted every article using the correct platform's format, protected the site against hackers and trolls, and hid the writers' true identities. Knowing the dangers foreign correspondents

faced, he worried about what would happen to them if their identities were ever compromised. Mindful of the risks, Jake often checked in on the WiFiAll users to ensure they were safe. This took a toll on Jake's personal life—he experienced hyperstress, and running served as his favorite escape.

The idea of a Lighter Web made Jake feel both intrigued and hopeful. Perhaps it could serve as another alternative to provide humanitarian support to journalists that did not involve being exposed, even if mildly, to extremism and atrocities. The Dark Web message boards discussing the Lighter Web recognized its mystery. Many argued that it was probably fake, and not worth the trouble. They had come to the consensus that the security levels were not hackable. The sense that it amounted to nothing but a hoax was growing, yet Jake wanted to try for himself and chose not to make any unverified assumptions.

He posted on one of the rare uplifting message boards on the Dark Web. In the evening, he ordered Mexican food and checked the responses. He had received a DM from an anonymous user.

“J.M., I saw your message asking about the Lighter Web. I've been granted permission to give you access to its lightwall. You will need to answer a questionnaire to get permission to download and access the Asherah browser. Here it the Asherah [link](#). Your unique password is Lighter. Wizard”

“Thank you, Wizard. Is there anything else you can share?”

Jake did not need to wait long to get a response.

“Only that you should proceed mindfully.”

There was no further explanation. Jake communicated with Wizard past midnight and decided to make his first attempt in the morning. Before going to sleep, Jake watched a few episodes of the Enlightenment docuseries to let go of the day's stress. Noah had gotten him hooked, and watching

reruns helped him stay connected. It reminded Jake of Noah's unrealized dream to someday be a member of the Enlightenment book club, or even better publish a book that would be read in the series.

In the morning, Jake prepared and ate instant oatmeal, drank coffee, and got mentally ready to access the Lighter Web, convinced it couldn't be that hard. He read the top of the page and realized what Wizard meant about answering the questions mindfully.

```
#The Asherah access point seeks to identify potential users with benevolent intentions to join the Lighter Web (LW) community.  
#To keep LW free from MDM information, and those with ill intent towards others, the LW access is only granted to those who speak #truthfully and value peace, understanding, and harmony.
```

The questionnaire did not appear in full. The only question shown asked for the visitor's full name. He had an online work call scheduled in half an hour, at 9:45 am, and figuring it would not take long, attempted to gain access. Jake opted to input his codename, and the second question showed up. Each prompt appeared only after a satisfactory answer was submitted. It reminded him of the GMAT test he took to apply for graduate school.

He saved his original attempt before joining his work meeting:

```
Welcome to Asherah Access!  
Full name: J. Mount
```

```
The Lighter Web:
```

```
What would you like to gain from accessing the Lighter Web? - lowercase, please.
```

```
i'd like to gain perspective, and access to the crystal book of wisdom.
```

```
'Please continue your self-development practice and come back in six months'
```

Jake refreshed the page but the system did not allow him to move forward and blocked him. He had to put his frustration aside to join the work call.

A few hours later, while warming up his leftover chicken chimichanga, he reflected on how to proceed. Jake used a strategy he had developed since Noah passed and asked himself: what would Noah do? Even after their cancer diagnosis, Noah continued being a source of solace and wisdom to Jake, helping him practice other forms of experiencing inner peace beyond running.

The answer came swiftly: Noah would have used a journal to do some unfiltered writing—they always kept a journal handy. They often said that inspired messages get through much easier when handwritten than if they were typed. Noah would probably reflect on the question, and meditate for a few minutes before writing. That is what Jake decided to do after work. He had a personalized lined journal Noah had given him a year or so ago, which he had left by his bedside. Since he had access to only one of the prompts, Jake planned to pause, reflect, and use the notebook to write by hand before typing each answer.

Jake recalled fondly the first time Noah invited him to meditate together. Jake biked to Noah's place and Noah offered him fizzy water. They chatted before they sat on the floor cushions.

"We are going to meditate for just five minutes. Simply close your eyes, straighten your back, and breathe." Noah's instructions seemed easy enough. When the timer rang, Noah quickly turned it off.

"I didn't know what to expect. I spent the time thinking about a message I received earlier from a journalist scared for his safety." Jake shared knowing that this wasn't what Noah hoped for.

"That's totally fine. It happened to me in the beginning too. Next time, try to label the thoughts as thoughts, to separate from them a bit, and make a strong effort to move your attention back toward the breath. You may also consider writing down any concerns you have before you start meditating. It may help you to let go and stay focused."

Jake appreciated the instructions and missed his friend dearly. Those instructions had helped Jake calm down on several occasions including tonight. With pen and paper ready, once the timer went off, he did some writing with the second question of the form in mind.

In the end, he wrote a whole paragraph with information he would not have otherwise considered typing. After his earlier attempt, when the system blocked him from trying for six months, he figured there could be another option. His IT expertise came in handy. He switched to Linux OS, accessed a backup server, and used a different, dedicated IP address. Voila! It worked.

On his second attempt, he opted to type his real name and the answer he had handwritten.

```
Welcome to Asherah Access!  
Full name:  Jacob Mountain
```

The Lighter Web:

What would you like to gain from accessing the Lighter Web? - lowercase, please

```
i'd like to gain perspective, access to the crystal book of wisdom, connect with others who are part of the same wavelength, create or be part of a community of people who want to improve the world, and elevate each person to their highest potential.
```

He breathed a sigh of relief when he got through to the next question.

Conflict Management:

How often do you consider different points of view to solve a conflict?

- a) never
- b) seldom
- c) sometimes
- d) often
- e) always

Jake could have easily answered the multiple-choice question. He figured if he said e) always, he would likely be allowed to move on. In the spirit of being mindful, Jake considered that on most days he took the time to consider different points of view, and decided to choose d.

The “d” got him to the next question. For each question, Jake opted to pause, breathe, reflect, and write longer answers to make sure he had enough information to get through the next round. This strategy worked, even though it took him a couple of hours to finish. Not only did he get to the next phase of the intake process, but he noticed what a difference writing by hand was having in his psyche and self-expression. It made him feel free and connected to a part of himself he rarely accessed.

After answering the last question, Jake got to the next phase:

How have you made someone else's day better this week? - lowercase please
i helped my friend with a research project. she needed my help, i listened, stayed present, and promptly volunteered to use my resources to help her.

Well done! Please submit your full name and mailing address to receive the package which contains further instructions. This package has a unique identifier and cannot be shared with others. The Lighter Web is looking forward to your presence there.

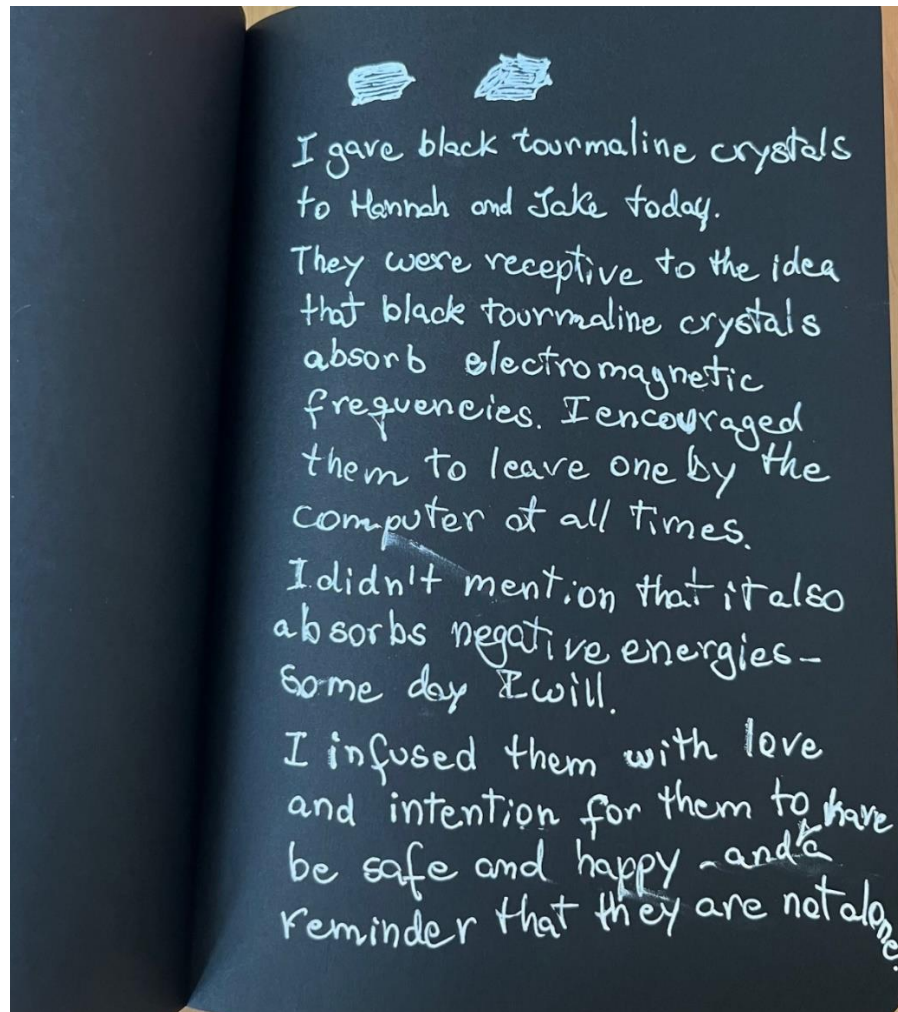
Jake hesitated, unsure of what to expect and who was behind the Lighter Web. However, he had come this far and typed his full name and home address. He needed to commit and show up as himself. That’s what Noah would have done, he thought.

Once the address was inputted, the system responded:

Thank you. The package will be mailed to you on the next business day. Further instructions will be included.

This process allowed Jake to connect with Noah, and to practice an activity that they taught him. Missing his friend, Jake remembered that before Noah passed, they gave him one of their journals. Noah had

said that it could help both Hannah and Jake understand them better. It felt like an important time to open it again. Thanks to Noah's drawings, the black tourmaline page caught Jake's attention.

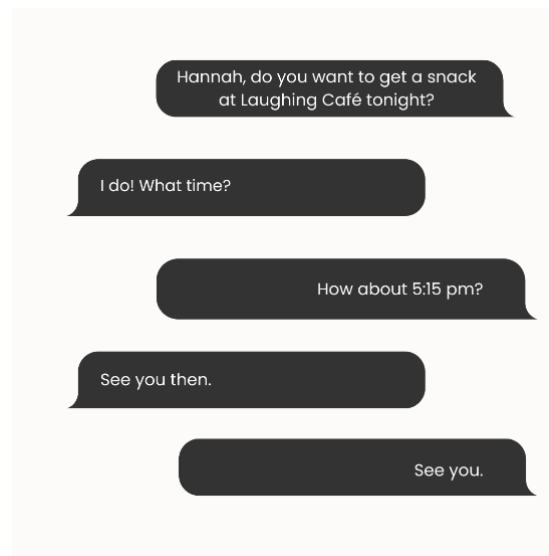


Jake looked up and gazed at the black tourmaline next to his laptop on his desk.



Noah had seen it on Jake's desk months ago and told him how happy it made them feel that he followed the instructions. When Jake traveled, the crystal had a special place in his suitcase. He did not remember Noah saying that they infused it with love, and he wondered if Hannah knew and if she had even kept the crystal.

Before the Lighter Web package arrived, with the desire to bring a smile to Hannah's face, Jake sent her a text inviting her to meet at Laughing Café. He did not have all the answers yet, but he was close to getting access to the Lighter Web.



Jake's day was busy as usual and passed by fast. He had something to look forward to, though. During lunchtime, he read Hannah's article again, which had been posted on Friday, and reflected on the last quote:

"The clearer one gets about the intention to see clearly the deeper the knowing is. Some parts abruptly cut from the source may originally grieve the loss of that connection. As the pain shifts, it is felt and transformed, and there is space for remembrance, connection, and carrying on with parts of that soul that no longer exist. Finding peace from a space of knowing and love."

He left work early and walked to Laughing Café, securing a table before it got too crowded, and getting coffee. When Hannah arrived, she checked the menu but already knew what she wanted. They both ordered croissant sandwiches, and she got tea. Before the sandwich came, Jake showed Hannah the page in Noah's journal with the black tourmaline drawing and message. Hannah got emotional when reading that the crystal was infused with love from Noah, and photographed the page—another piece of Noah's precious presence to keep.

"I didn't know Noah had done that." Although they had read some pages of the journal after Noah passed away, their grief was too intense and it had not been the right moment to fully absorb it.

"Neither did I." Jake got up and grabbed more napkins for the table.

"I keep mine on my desk but it's a mess right now and it's buried under a pile of paper. I will have to look for it. At least yours is visible with your impressive organizational skills." Hannah had not seen her crystal in quite some time.

"I can't control much, but how I keep my desk, I can."

"I wish I was that disciplined!"

Jake smiled knowingly, remembering how unorganized Hannah's place was the last time they visited her. They were going to the movies in her neighborhood and Noah and Jake took the subway together and picked her up at her place. Although Jake had a strong urge to volunteer and help declutter her apartment, he decided against it so she would not feel self-conscious. If they were ever to live together, Jake would not mind being the one keeping their place organized.

Jake put the journal away before their fingers got too greasy from the croissant.

Hannah attempted to drink her tea, but the mug was hot and it spilled a bit. She made a howl sound and people in the Café stared. Jake quickly grabbed a napkin and helped clean up the spill.

“Are you Okay?”

“I am, thanks. Let me ask for more hot water.”

Jake did not take his eyes off Hannah as she approached the counter and waited. When she sat back down, she asked Jake if he had made any progress with the search. Chris from Cautious Anonymous had sent River’s article to Hannah, and she had emailed it to Jake a few days ago. Hannah felt glad that River did not have access to her real name, in case he found her C.A. article. She and Jake didn’t dwell on being called hippies but decided not to mention Asherah or Lighter Web in public again.

“I’ve been able to get through the first hurdle to access... you know what... I’m hoping to have a positive update in a week or two.”

“That’s wonderful news. Anything you’d like to share?”

“Not much. I can tell you that I considered what would Noah do, and started journaling. It helped! I may continue with the practice. Especially after reading some of the pages in their notebook.”

“You are journaling now?! I never thought I’d see the day.”

“People change.”

“I guess so.”

They savored their sandwiches and noticed how the Café had gotten crowded. In between bites, Jake brought up Hannah’s article and quotes.

“I reflected on that last quote from your article, and I imagine that when we talk about Noah, or when we remember or act on their advice, we bring them closer to us. Is that what you think it means?” Jake was curious.

“I would like to believe that we are still connected to Noah. I doubt it is possible, though.”

“Somehow talking about them with you, remembering happier times and journaling do make me feel connected to them.”

“I will consider journaling too and see how it feels.” Hannah was not ready to commit to it. She desperately wanted to connect to Noah, while at the same time she resisted doing things that reminded her of them.

Jake smiled and nodded.

After they ate, they grabbed their things, and Jake walked Hannah to the subway station three blocks away.

“Once you find your black tourmaline, send me a photo.” Jake was grinning.

“Yeah, right! I’ll text you soon.”

They hugged before Hannah went downstairs to catch the downtown subway.

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THE MEETING

On Saturday morning, Headair and Lanon went for a walk in Prospect Park. It was a beautiful sunny day, and they enjoyed each other's company. Lanon had prepared a picnic basket, with sandwiches made of leftover chicken he patiently shredded, juice, and dark chocolate for dessert. Headair decided not to check emails until they got back later in the afternoon, otherwise, she would obsess over them. They went back home together, and Lanon left to go play volleyball with a friend. Only after he left, Headair checked her email. River's response, saying that he would bite, sounded like him. Headair replied choosing the 5:30 pm time slot he suggested and sending him the address of her favorite Café in that area.

Next, she texted Maya to let her know and made plans to meet her at the Café on Monday afternoon. One of the Lighter Web's purposes was to create safe spaces for hard conversations to happen in real life. And this was a useful situation to test it out. During the rest of the weekend there was time to connect with Lanon and time to write down some scenarios and ways she thought the meeting could go. When the kids arrived Sunday evening, seemingly exhausted, Headair hugged them tightly under protest. They shared how fun it was to zipline into the cold lake and go back swimming. Their favorite activity was kayaking. They were tanned, and she figured they didn't use sunblock. Since they didn't get much sleep all weekend, they went to bed early.

On Monday afternoon, Headair and Maya met to role-play the conversation with River. They went over multiple scenarios and how to handle the situation if he became adversarial. They agreed on the tables they would sit at so that Headair could face the door and see when River came in, and Maya could observe them from a distance. If emotions escalated, Headair would touch the top of her head with her left hand, and Maya would casually approach them and interrupt the conflict.

The next day, before leaving home, Headair did another round of tapping to help calm her nerves.

Headair and Maya arrived first at Laughing Café and sat at the pre-agreed tables. Luckily, they were available. Headair's photo could be found on the About Us page of her site, though it was doubtful that River would open it. Knowing what River Stone looked like, she sat facing the door. He too arrived before 5:30 pm. She waved. River noticed she already had something to drink and he ordered Irish Coffee for himself before shaking her hand and sitting down.

"Thanks for coming..."

"You posted a dare; how could I refuse?"

Headair took a deep breath before responding. "It was more of an invitation."

"Tell yourself whatever you want – you are pissed that I rightfully questioned everything you write and stand for."

River took a sip of his coffee and waited for Headair's reaction.

"Is that what you think?"

"That must be it!"

Headair used one of the questions she had formulated with Maya's help the day before. Neither of them knew how he would respond:

"I'm curious what makes you hate crystals so much?"

"I don't hate crystals. I like them as part of nature, nothing else."

"When did you decide that they don't have energy or power?"

"Don't come to me with this nonsense. What a load of crap. I didn't decide it. I know. And you do too."

Before responding, Headair drank some of her tea and considered what to say. River drank more of his coffee as well.

“It sounds like you are angry about it.”

“Angry? I’m livid.”

“Something terrible must have happened.”

“You say”

“Mmmm?” Realizing an opening, Headair encouraged River to keep talking.

“Let me tell you something – this girl I was seeing brought crystals into my place. I thought it was weird, but I put up with it. The relationship had its perks if you know what I mean.”

“I do.”

“All of a sudden, she packs them and her things, and leaves without saying goodbye. When I got home there was a note...Here, I took a photo of it...”

It did not take long for River to find the note, and he turned his phone to Headair:



“... what? A crystal told her? And she broke up with me using a note? Who does that? Come on!”

“That must have hurt.”

“It was infuriating – and I’d have ended it anyway, too much spiritual talk at me the whole time we were together.”

“I see. I’m guessing she didn’t communicate what was going on for her.”

“She didn’t, she used crystal talk instead, and I wasn’t buying it.”

River got aggravated, and finishing his Irish Coffee helped him regain his composure. He considered getting another one but wanted to get to the point of this conversation and leave sooner rather than later.

“It makes sense that you have an aversion to crystals. It’s tough for anyone to get over a break-up, especially when there is no clarity or an opportunity to connect and share.”

“Tell me about it. I reached out to demand an explanation, but she blocked my number.”

“That must sting, and it’s a valid reason to fight anything related to crystal magic.”

“No kidding. Wait. I’ve been venting for half an hour, and you haven’t told me why we are here.”

They heard a commotion on another table and turned to look. Someone had spilled their tea. This interruption helped Headair collect her thoughts and she responded:

“I have no agenda other than to understand you better.”

“Understand me? What’s there to understand? I’m an open book, and I speak my mind.”

“How were you showing up in the relationship?” Unsure about how to address River’s article without triggering him, Headair brought attention back to what he shared.

“Showing up? I’m a busy guy and I didn’t stop seeing my friends for poker games, drinks, happy hour, and what have you. If she told me she needed something I got it for her. I told her to stop working but she wanted to keep teaching Yoga. She invited me to attend a class—I never did.”

“Do you think she didn’t feel supported?”

“I paid the bills!”

“How about taking time to listen and connect with her on a deeper level?”

“I was the provider!”

Headair took a sip of water before responding. She was pleased with herself for grabbing a glass before River arrived as she had finished her tea a while ago.

“I get it. She may have wanted a partnership.”

River’s puzzled face said a lot. “How dare you say that I was a bad partner?”

“I didn’t say that at all. I’m wondering if there were other reasons beyond what she wrote in that note.”

“I’ve always known she lied not to face me. She probably met someone else and made the lamest excuse just to irritate me. I never felt supported by her either.”

“Right – relationships take effort from both sides, and it seems you liked her. Leaving abruptly had to hurt.”

“It did...”

By this point, River’s facial expression had softened. He noticed that his tension eased and he felt curious about what was happening. For a split second, he considered if she was attempting to flirt with him, by showing this much interest in him and his past. Then he noticed Headair’s wedding ring and felt confused.

...What’s going on here?”

“I’m just listening, like I said... I get it now why a book that claims to have been written with crystal messages goes against what you believe and your experience.”

“I have never heard a crystal speak, have you?”

“I couldn’t say I have, no.”

“Gotcha!”

Drinking more water, Headair collected her thoughts.

“Because I haven’t doesn’t mean no one else can. I imagine that with conscious effort, it may be possible to open oneself to intuitively receive messages.”

“What is that like?”

“Holding the crystal and allowing one’s imagination to read into it.” That was a plausible explanation that came to Headair’s mind.

“Imagination? You see, even you think it’s made up.”

“It could be, but I didn’t ask my readers to believe blindly. I asked them to decide for themselves.”

“Well, I decided it was rubbish.”

“OK. Did you pause to reflect on the meanings of the quotes, though?”

“I took your words at face value.”

Headair felt her anger brewing and discretely took a deep breath before responding.

“They are not my words.”

“You posted them.”

“And you reposted.”

River motioned to the water fountain and got up to get a glass. It gave Headair a chance to look at Maya.

Their exchanged eye contact put Maya’s mind at ease. River started speaking as he sat down.

“Is that why we are here? Did you bring me here to ask me to take down the article?”

“Not really – it’s been read nationwide by now, hasn’t it? That’s not the case. Would you consider reading the quotes again, and opening up to another point of view just for your sake?” Headair did not think he would give it any more thought but felt the need to suggest it.

“I might, but how does it help you?”

“I don’t have an agenda River, and if a fight is what you want, I’ll be ready. But that’s not my style. I prefer to deal with disagreements in private.” Headair kept focusing on her breathing to stay calm.

“You surprise me.”

“You too. I had no idea what you were going through.”

“Why would you? No one does.”

“It helps to talk about it, doesn’t it?” Headair practiced being present and stayed focused on him throughout their interaction.

“It does.”

They stayed in silence for a moment, while Headair grabbed a file from her bag.

“By the way, in your article, you doubted what I wrote about EFT and how it helped my anxiety. I printed out a journal article that confirms EFT as an evidence-based therapeutic method. You don’t need to read it or even take it with you, but I thought you might like to get more information on it...”

Headair handed him the journal article.

...You may have read about it already and there is a lot of misinformation circulating out there. This study was performed by PhD students and professors at Konservista University. Didn’t you go there?”

“I did for a couple of years, but left about twenty years ago and never looked back.”

“Twenty years? Is that when Evelyn Almond became president and started making cultural changes?”

Evelyn Almond caused quite a stir when she accepted the president role, as the first woman to do so in the history of the University. She then proceeded to make the school more inclusive than ever.

“I don’t remember.”

“I see. It must have been a tough decision.”

“It wasn’t that hard because I got a great job and have done well for myself. Can’t you tell?”

“Oh, most definitely. You are highly competent and respected by your readers. I noticed in your article that you shared how crystals are formed. I would like to read more about it. Could you recommend any books on the subject?” Headair had rehearsed this question with Maya, showing interest in his work and validating his expertise, instead of focusing on her.

“Check out any book with the title of “Rocks and Minerals”, and you will drop this nonsense of crystal talk in no time.”

“I will. Thanks for meeting me, River.”

“That’s it? I was waiting for you to shout and explode at any moment.”

“What would be the point? Besides, that’s not who I am.” Headair hoped they were done, at least for now.

“All right, if you say so. Are you heading out?”

“I have another meeting here soon. Have a good evening.”

“Bye.”

Maya, Lanon, and Headair had agreed she would not walk out of the café with River.

Once River left and was out of sight, Maya came over, took River’s coffee mug to the counter, and sat down to debrief. They breathed a sigh of relief, and Headair spoke first.

“That was something... The seed was planted.”

“It was. Well done, Headair!”

Meanwhile, River went home and ordered his favorite Chinese food – spicy beef. He was experiencing an unfamiliar feeling and could not figure out what it was. River ate dinner while watching basketball highlights. For some reason, his desire to destroy Headair had diminished. He figured she had drunk the Kool-Aid and been brainwashed by fake media. River read the Emotional Freedom Technique journal article she gave him, and although nothing indicated a lack of legitimacy, he doubted its claims.

He found himself in a bind. The Lighter Web had challenged him to practice self-development, but he knew there was nothing to improve. Left with no other apparent choice, he considered trying EFT, and using it to trick the lightwall into believing he had changed. River was determined to fake his way into the Lighter Web and destroy it from within.

Curious about what the Patriarchy Stand group wrote as conspiracy theories, River visited the site

<https://bit.ly/DestroybyRiver> and was pleasantly surprised by the responses so far:

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying <https://etherpad.wikimedia.org/p/Destroy>. Below the address bar are navigation icons. The main content area shows a list of text entries, each on a new line, with a line number on the left. The text is as follows:

- 1 **Campaign to bring down the Lighter Web and end this nonsense.**
- 2
- 3 **Please add your suggestions and initials. Feel free to comment on each other's ideas.**
- 4
- 5 It presents itself as a spiritual path but it is nothing more than a secret society attempting to dominate the world and end life as we know it. R.S.
- 6
- 7 They brainwash their users to become woke. Do not engage. G.R.
- 8
- 9 **The Lighter Web is a cult, created by powerful people to destroy your way of living. N.V.**
- 10

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GATEWAY II

A couple of days after seeing Hannah, Jake received the Lighter Web welcome box. He opted not to update her, deciding to wait until he found the crystal book.

The package contained instructions with a QR code, two tea bags, and a funny-looking pen with crystals.

Before proceeding he did a quick search and learned that the crystals were Amazonite.



Instructions to be followed in order:

- 1- Brew one teabag for 5 to 7 minutes. Throw out the teabag, and wait for the temperature to cool down a bit.
- 2- Drink the tea slowly and mindfully (i.e. do not use electronic devices or watch TV. Stay present and enjoy the taste of the tea).
- 3- Scan the QR code to access a recording.



- 4- Listen to the guided meditation and follow the instructions.
- 5- Go to AsherahLight.com/access. Enter your unique identifier - JMountain passcode 831

Jake ignored the instructions and went straight to the website. However, after reading the first question, he thought it best to follow the guidelines. Not a super fan of teas, Jake begrudgingly brewed the teabag provided as per the instructions. He turned his phone off and resisted the urge to do anything else that could distract him from this moment. Staying present while drinking was a tedious task. The smell of sage came through as he waited for the tea to cool down. The scent carried him to a time when Noah and Hannah burned sage in his place. Noah convinced them that burning sage had energy clearing powers. The memory of that moment made Jake smile. His taste buds surprisingly enjoyed the flavors of mint, rosemary, and the smoky taste of sage. He savored the tea while sitting on the sofa and noticed that the back of his ergonomic chair could use some dusting. He didn't get up, though, and his mind drifted, wondering how he could help Hannah make peace with Noah's death, and if she would ever see him as more than a friend. Would there be a right time to tell her how he felt? Perhaps the crystal book of wisdom would have the answers to his questions. He smiled at the thought, knowing that he too was skeptical.

The combined flavors of the tea created a tingling sensation on his forehead. Before scanning the QR code, he got a working pen and his journal. Then, he listened to the guided meditation and heard the message – *to bring and receive hope*. Jake had no idea how to be a messenger of hope when he felt deeply aware of the worst in humanity. Knowing at this point not to challenge the steps provided, he reopened the AsherahLight.com website. It did not make much sense to him to write with one's non-dominant hand, and he wondered how they would know. However, during adolescence, he played with writing with his left hand, in case he broke his right one, which never happened. He took it as a challenge to use this up-to-now useless skill. Jake held the pen with his left hand and wrote his answers.

I affirm that I have followed the instructions in order, and my answers will be completed honestly and solely by me.

Initials

Are you:

- left-handed
- right-handed
- ambidextrous

What one word, phrase, or image came to you during the meditation? If you did not receive any messages, consider answering: what is your true intention when accessing the Lighter Web?

What type of soulful contribution are you willing to make?

Jake's main purpose was finding the crystal book, yet he couldn't help but feel curious about being part of a community where hate, heinous crimes, MDM information, and conspiracy theories did not have a grip on its users. Following the instructions paid off. The next page showed the link to download the Asherah official browser and start browsing the Lighter Web.

The last hurdle to using the Asherah browser required Jake to acknowledge reading the Terms and Conditions. Jake never forgot a Law elective course he took when pursuing his IT degree. The professor held a long discussion on the Terms and Conditions page of websites that statistically only 1% of users ever read. One of the assignments asked students to read the T.C. of social media platforms. Although boring, Jake developed the habit of reading them. While most of the T.Cs he had read so far had the same basic boilerplate rules, this one stood out as unique.

Terms and Conditions

Congratulations! You have been granted access to the Lighter Web via the Asherah browser. Before you move forward consider our terms and conditions and if you agree, type your initials at the end and submit. If you do not agree, that is cool. It simply means that you are not compatible with the Lighter Web environment at this time. We wish you the best, and perhaps we will someday meet on the Surface Web. We hope that the world will embrace the following conditions as sacred, and will choose to practice them even when they are not required by "terms and conditions" to do so. Until then, close the browser and move on. No hard feelings.

The Lighter Web works diligently to keep its users safe from any physical or emotional harm, and it does its utmost to create an environment that is inclusive, supportive, honest, light, respectful, collaborative, and meaningful. The Lighter Web users take responsibility for their own wholesome actions.

I, the undersigned, vow to use the Lighter Web for the benefit of all users. Before I post anything or offer any product or service, I will consider the highest good of all involved. I will refrain from posting fake news, conspiracy theories, or deep fakes. When uncertain, I will fact-check my theories before posting. When still in doubt, I will reach out to the team at factcheck@asherahlight.com to make sure my post is accurate and meets the guidelines herein. I agree to, if applicable, price my goods and services with fair timebank prices and make myself available to negotiate terms of bartering, donating, and volunteering in exchange for what I have to offer. I will stay open to constructive criticism as my engagement on the Lighter Web increases and will provide mindful feedback when requested. I will be a part of this diverse community and contribute without judging another user based on any aspect of their background, identity, being. If I experience any uneasiness or discrimination, I will promptly contact the team at inclusive@asherahlight.com. I will engage with the Lighter Web as myself, fully present, and ready to leverage my potential as a soulful, kind, caring, communicative, and loving human.

I will encourage others to follow the steps I took to gain access to the Lighter Web without sharing my answers.

I understand that the terms and conditions of use may be updated, and I will review them and decide on my own free will if they are aligned with who I am, and if I shall continue using the Lighter Web or not.

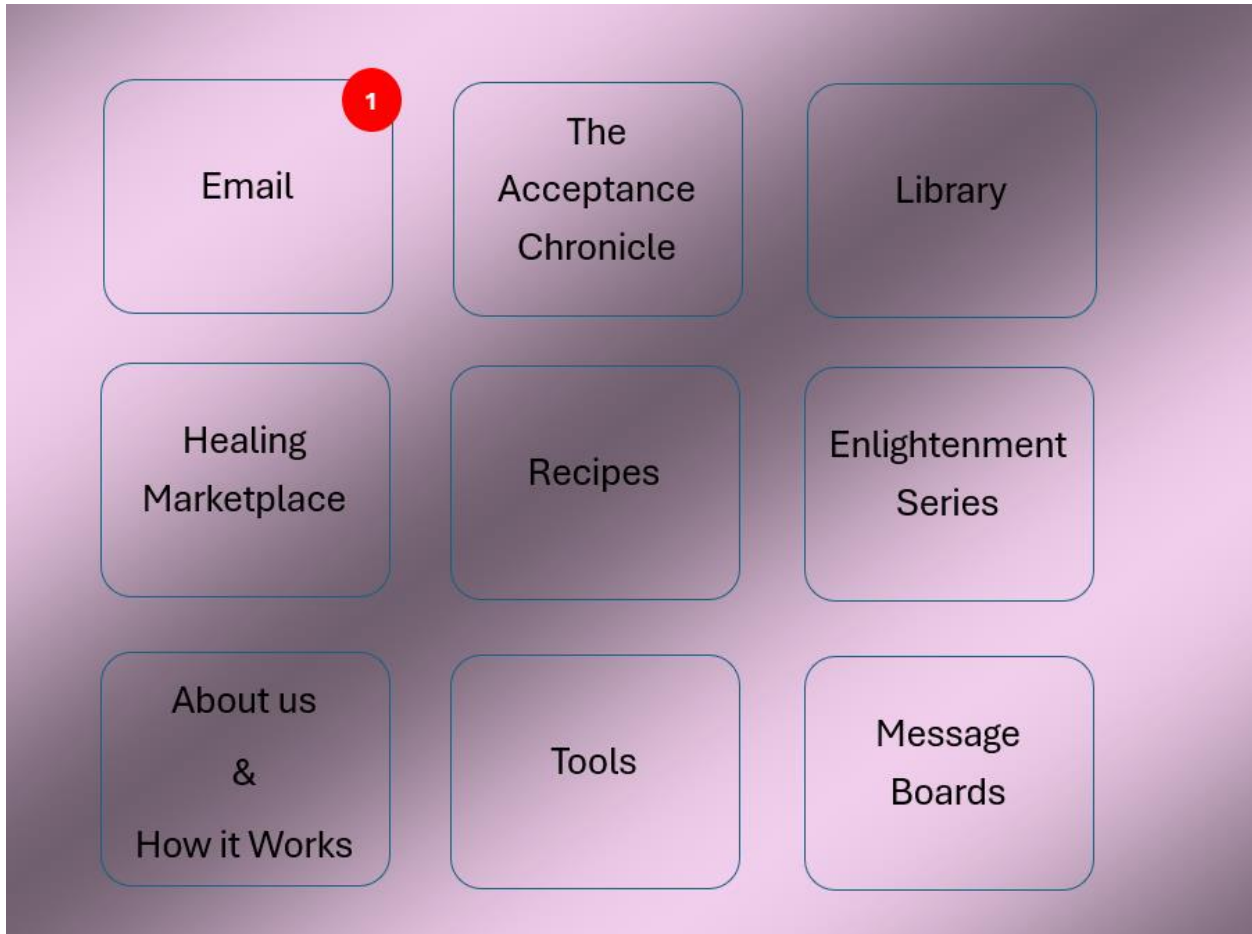
This is my solemn vow.

Initials:

Jake typed his initials and waited in anticipation to access the Asherah browser.

ACCESS GRANTED

Jake downloaded and installed the Asherah browser. It had a simple design and no ads.



Jake noticed the email box showing a new message. He checked it out before visiting the library page, and found the following email:

Subject: Welcome Jacob

Dear Jacob,

Welcome to the Lighter Web. We've been waiting for you to join our beta version of Asherah. The work you do with WiFiAll is crucial. We need someone who can help us create something similar on the Lighter Web. Right now, people must use their real names to post. We know that the journalists you serve take considerable risk if their names are exposed. We would like to offer you a position as head of cybersecurity to help us come up with a workable strategy aligned with our values.

We need help navigating the user's need for privacy with their need to have a safe and honest space for our users to interact with each other. One option might be to create private accounts for them while making sure they go through the lightwall intake process as their real selves. We want our users to be protected, and able to create long-lasting change beyond the web. The purpose is to help users transform themselves and thus their lives and environments with empathy, trust, and respect. Your email address here is jmountain@asherahlight.com, and it works only through the Asherah browser.

Please consider our offer and reply to this email with some days and times that work for you to chat.

You can learn more about our publication by going to The Acceptance Chronicle box. The Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom is in the Library box.

Best regards,

The Wise One

Jake remembered Hannah mentioning that the Wise One was the CEO of the Lighter Web, according to Maya. Why were they contacting him? He felt confused about how they knew of his work. He hadn't

included anything about it in his answers. Did someone conspire to get him through the so-called lightwall?

Unsure of what to do, Jake decided to brew the second teabag he had received – figuring this could put him in the right headspace to reflect. In the back of his mind, Jake considered if it was a good time to make a career move. He didn't want to leave WifiAll in a bind. Fortunately, his direct report Sidney could transition with some coaching into the leadership role. If needed, he could probably phase out of the job slowly and start part-time working for the Lighter Web.

To be better informed, he clicked on the Acceptance Chronicle box and looked through the current front page.

The Acceptance Chronicle

 **Self-love practices have ripple effects**

Practicing self-love is a catalyst for creating more acceptance in one's life and it can have ripple effects. Scan the QR code now and listen to a list of 75 simple and effective self-love practices. Or click [here](#) to read the list.



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Spreading fake news does not mean someone is dumb.

According to studies cited by Scientific American, information overload, limited amount of time and attention span, frequency of seeing a post or meme, and social media algorithms contribute to the spread of misinformation and fake news. On the other hand, mentioning the accuracy of a post leads readers to pause before sharing. Please schedule time to check a post's accuracy before you contribute to it going viral.

Nonviolent communication cuts through Kit's soul.

Kit shared a secret that Lina asked to be kept private. Instead of punching Kit and ending communication, Lina self-empathized, and then empathized with Kit. Lina sent a nonviolent email understanding the needs Kit was trying to satisfy by sharing the secret. Kit cried.

He liked what he saw, particularly the full article about Fake News, and how it spread. Jake read another article “Reducing Productivity Minimizes Misogyny,” which he thought Hannah would like. The author shared a strategy to further the *equiarcky* cause and told the story of a woman who successfully changed her behavior at work. Jake felt connected to both causes and wanted to learn more. Before searching for the *Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom*, Jake responded to the email from his AsherahLight email account.

Subject: RE: Welcome Jacob

Dear Wise One,

Thank you for the offer. I’m interested in learning more. Today I’m available at 4 pm EST and on Monday I’m available at 8 am, 12:30 pm, or 5:00 pm.

Best regards,

Jake Mountain

Jake went back to work and left the Asherah browser open. He fantasized about working for the Lighter Web and how that could shift his life tremendously. Jake wished he could talk to Noah about it. They could help him see the big picture. In their absence, Jake stepped away from his desk, sat on the sofa, and journaled about his thoughts, the pros and cons of leaving his job, and prepared some questions to ask the Wise One. Back at his computer, he saw on his second screen that he had received a response.

Subject: RE: RE: Welcome Jacob

Jacob,

Please join our virtual video call through this [link](#) at 4:00 pm today. You will connect with Maya, a valued member of our team.

Best regards,

The Wise One

Jake wondered if Maya was the same person whom Hannah talked to the other day. Was it a coincidence? Noah would have said – *there is no such thing*.

At the time of the video call, Jake was ready to learn more about the position and the Lighter Web in general. He noticed that Maya appeared in her late 60s and had a pendulum-shaped crystal necklace similar to one that Noah had. Hanging on the wall behind her, Jake noticed a chart of chakras painting.

“Hi Jacob, I’m glad you made it.”

“Thanks for your time, you can call me Jake.” He had the camera on but a blurred background.

“Jake, you may be wondering how we know so much about you... The person who sent you the link on the Dark Web, Wizard, knows your work at WiFiAll. He is one of our journalists and he suggested that we invite you to join us. The password you used – Lighter was assigned to you only, and that’s how you were able to access it successfully on your second attempt, without having to wait to retry.”

“Interesting, I thought it was the server change.”

“We have security measures not to allow second attempts with the same password for most potential users, especially during beta testing. We opened an exception for you. Someone else got the link about the same time you did—different password—and was not allowed to try again. He tends to spread disinformation. We want to keep him away for 6 months, as he hopefully works on himself and becomes more mindful. Once you join, I will tell you his name...”

Jake listened attentively and took some notes.

...There is a risk that he would trick the system, and we will deal with it when the time comes. We imagine you can help us enhance the security system to keep him and other ill-intent users away.”

“I think so. Could you tell me who Wizard is?”

“At the moment, no.”

“My friend Nox spoke with someone named Maya, was that you?”

“Yes, that’s me,” Maya said with a smile. “have you had a chance to read The Acceptance Chronicle?”

“I did browse a bit, and I’m very interested in the work that the paper is doing. What’s the job?”

“As the email we sent you mentioned, we need someone with your skillset. Your cybersecurity skills would benefit both the Acceptance Chronicle and more importantly the Lighter Web as a whole. You could also help us safeguard the system against trolls and MDM. We have been able to do it for now, but as word spreads, it might be harder to do.”

“Who would I be working with?”

“You would be working with our IT team, and they have all chosen to help as their purpose in life is aligned with what we are attempting to create.”

“What’s that?”

Jake saw Maya drinking water and waited for her to respond. “A safe place for people to connect, share, listen, and find a middle ground even when they disagree. Then, they will bring those skills and power into their lives outside the web.”

“I like that! What would be my hours?”

“Your schedule would be flexible. You can work mostly from 9 am to 5 pm Eastern, but sometimes you may be required to work at Central, Mountain, or Pacific time, although we currently have IT members covering those time zones.”

“I don’t have a problem with that.” Jake was used to being on call around the clock as WiFiAll served the global community.

“The main benefit is being part of the creation of this pathway—a new way of living in the world—a bridge to connect, support, and transform each individual and society, exploring tools for connection and kindness to dissolve and transform hate into love.”

There was a moment of awkward silence before Jake spoke.

“I’m interested, could I have a few days to respond?” Jake felt his heart pumping faster. He thought of Noah, and how they would have loved to be a part of it. He needed to make sure his WiFiAll work and the journalists would stay safe before transitioning.

“Of course. Please feel free to reach out with any further questions. If you could let us know by next Monday, it would be great.”

“I will get back to you. If I accept the offer I would need to give 3 to 4 weeks’ notice—to help with the transition and make sure it runs smoothly and does not endanger any user.”

“We get it. If you so choose, we can plan for you to start in a month. You can familiarize yourself with the Asherah browser until then. We will put you in touch with our tech team as well.”

“Before you go, may I ask about the Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom?”

“You will find it in the library box.” Maya did not want to extend the discussion, but Jake was curious.

“Who wrote it?”

“The author was the Wise One at the time they made it available in its current format. Sadly, the author recently passed away, and we didn’t have permission to share their name. Also, they never told their family that they could channel or talk to crystals, as they felt judged by them, and preferred to keep this part of their life secret. It may be best if it doesn’t come out.”

Jake remembered how Noah had shared that their brother told them that they were part of a cult when they stopped eating sugar, became vegetarian, and started meditating. Noah could have likely related to the Wise One’s experience. “Would it be fine to share the book with Hannah?”

“Yes, you can share it by letting her read it on your computer. At least for now, she will need to wait for all the systems to be fully tested and in place to gain access to it.”

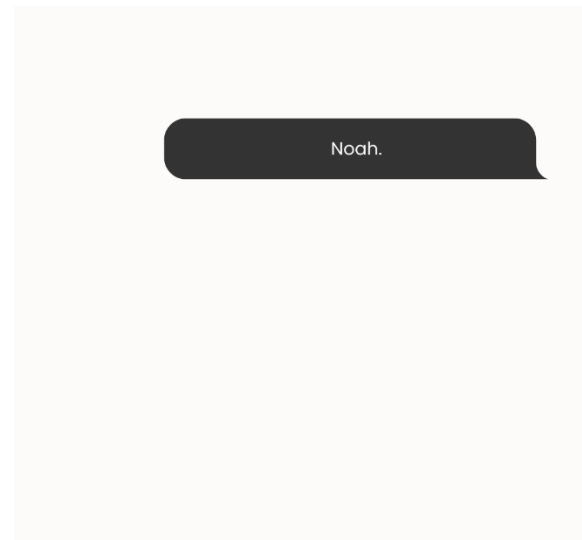
“I understand.” Jake exhaled realizing that he could share the book comfortably with Hannah.

“Welcome to the Lighter Web. We are looking forward to you joining the team, if you decide to do so.”

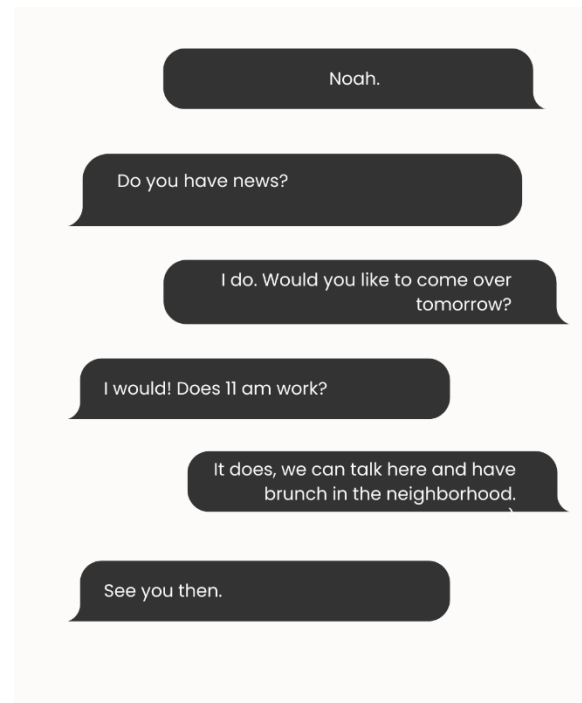
“Thank you, Maya.”

“You are welcome.” Maya ended the call.

Jake felt excited about this potential career move and spent a few hours reading other articles on The Acceptance Chronicle box. He also visited the library box and found a list of books that were still banned in 15 states. Thanks to the *equiarcky* movement, the number of states banning books was drastically reduced, yet the fight continued. Next, Jake found a link to read the *Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom* on the Lighter Web’s e-reader. He texted Hannah.



While he waited for her to respond, he reflected on his career and this new opportunity. Before long, Hannah’s response came in.



Jake kept his place clean and organized, and all he needed was to do the laundry in the morning before Hannah's arrival. With the clothes in the washer, he walked to the nearby deli and bought a blueberry muffin – Hannah's favorite.

Back home, he moved clothes into the dryer and swept the floor. By the time Hannah arrived, Jake had folded and stored his clothes, and the place was spotless.

Hannah came in and left her handbag on the sofa. They hugged, and Jake felt her warmth and a tingling sensation in his chest.

"Coffee?" Jake handed her his favorite mug.

"Yes, please!"

"I got a muffin as well."

"Thanks, let's eat it for dessert after brunch."

Jake nodded. Before going to read the book, he signaled for them to sit on the sofa.

“Hannah, I’ve been able to install the Asherah browser and got access to the Lighter Web. When we met last time I told you I had passed the first hurdle. It was thanks to a tip on the Dark Web’s message board.”

“I knew you could do it!”

“The first step took me to a questionnaire about my intentions in accessing the Lighter Web. Once I got through it, they mailed me a package that contained teabags, a pen, and instructions on how to proceed.”

Jake picked up the box and showed it to her.

Hannah read the instructions and looked surprised. “Did you have to drink tea? You hate it.”

“I did, it tasted bearable. I tried to skip drinking it, but the system would not let me proceed.”

“Could I scan this QR code?” Hannah picked up the instructions and noticed it.

“The login would not work for you, unfortunately. I have more to tell you, though. When I accessed the Asherah browser, I had an email from the Wise One.”

“The CEO?”

“Mmm, allegedly the CEO, yes.” They made eye contact and smiled. It didn’t sit well with either of them for someone to call themselves Wise One. “The Wise One wants me to be part of their cybersecurity team, and I already had a video call with Maya about it.”

“Do you mean my source Maya?”

“That’s the one. I asked about you having access to the Lighter Web, but they are still testing it for now, and plan to open it up to the general public soon. I got permission to show you the crystal book from my computer. She said someone recommended me based on my work at WiFiAll to join the team and contribute to the beta testing process. I just wished I knew who it was.”

“Another mystery!” Hannah felt intrigued by all the unknowns and resisted the urge to express how all of it seemed so suspicious to her.

“It looks like it. I’m interested and asked for some time to make a decision. I need to keep reading what’s available on the Lighter Web, and hopefully talk to other members of their team.”

“Good idea, it all sounds hard to believe.”

“I know, but from what I’ve seen so far, it seems legit. The Lighter Web publishes “The Acceptance Chronicle,” and I read a few articles aligned with the equiarcky movement, which makes it even more appealing. I think they could use you on their team as well!”

“Wow, thanks! Could you imagine if we end up working together?”

“That’d be awesome. I’m still deciding if I’ll join the team. Maybe the crystal book will help me decide.”
Haha

“Hahaha, you are funny! Shall we go read it?”

“It’s ready at my desk, I connected my second screen, and we are all set to read it.” They walked to Jake’s desk. He had already brought another chair for Hannah to sit next to him.

They read the instructions recommending that the book could be read from any page. They opted to go through it page by page and discuss the passages as they went along. They took turns reading the quotes aloud.

When they got to page 7 and read

“In this moment stay still In this moment be present and aware Notice your emotions notice the attachment and desire to know stop considering the possibilities of change Accept what is”

they talked about how Noah encouraged them to breathe, meditate, and be present. Neither of them had mastered the ability to stay still, but it was something that Noah would do and encouraged them to practice as well. They missed Noah yet felt deeply connected to them as they read the book.

When they were about halfway through it, they took a break and walked to the diner to have brunch.

Before going back home they went for a walk—it was their way of processing the book so far. They walked on side streets avoiding the stores on 86th Street, and traffic noise. Jake and Hannah agreed that it may take more than one read to absorb everything, and it would likely be best to read a quote per day. However, they agreed to finish reading it today, since Hannah couldn’t access it on her own just yet.

Back at Jake’s place, they picked up where they left off, and Hannah continued to write down some passages to include in her follow-up article. They were too full to eat the blueberry muffin and saved it for later.

Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom

**MILKY CLUSTER
CRYSTAL
BOOK OF WISDOM**



Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom

This work was channeled by the Wise One in conversation with a milky cluster crystal.

Cover and back cover designs by the author.

Ritual: Sitting in a lotus position, the writer positioned the crystal in different ways each day, and quietly and openly read into the crystal's intrinsic wisdom.

You are invited to open the book on any page you like and are encouraged to:

- a) Pause and reflect.
- b) Take notes and consider how it applies to your life.
- c) Share quotes and your interpretations with others.
- d) Generate discussion opportunities.
- e) Create your own daily rituals.

Copyright: The book in its entirety cannot be distributed outside the Lighter Web/Asherah Browser. Readers are allowed to quote pieces of it and build upon the material in any medium or format for noncommercial purposes only, and only so long as attribution is given to the source.

The Hand that holds the crystal takes on its wisdom and holds the power to bring its wisdom into one's inner being

The crystal having existed for countless years in a deep mine near the ocean was originally formed from waves air water and silicon It has multiple layers and small crystals connected to each other and at the base Each part contains mystical secrets and wisdom Before the hand holding it picked it up it sat for years on shelves dormant holding on to the possibility that someday this could happen Although it never had any expectations Its only purpose is to exist to carry knowledge to absorb its surroundings and to stay connected to its source at all times no matter the environment no matter the wisdom or lack thereof around it It stays the same stable powerful present The cluster crystal has no agenda no aspirations no greed It bathes itself in ancient wisdom and the simplicity of it all The hand that holds it has the potential to start downloading the wisdom within the crystal

It requires focus concentration awareness and most of all the release of any expectations greed or ulterior motives Only a clear mind and heart have the capacity to listen to receive to engage without being blinded by power status cockiness

The blockages exist in the receiver not on the crystal
The crystal has no doubts that a clear mind and heart is
capable of receiving learning expanding one's being with
what's about to be revealed The wisdom is hidden in
sacred texts in sacred crystals and in the depths of the
Earth It is available to living beings Ocean life carries
wisdom as well It is deep it is all-knowing it is infinite
Each surface with its unique texture and connection to
one another carries messages from this and other worlds
realms

In this moment stay still In this moment be present
and aware Notice your emotions notice the
attachment and desire to know stop considering
the possibilities of change Accept what is

Grasp that all emotions are valid. Connect with your own inner wisdom and all-knowing powers. They are inside of you. Allow the messages to reveal themselves to you. Let go of what it is or what it should be. Embrace the doubts and invite the fear to take the back seat. Reject naysayers. Reject greed. Focus on what is present in this moment. Avoid distractions or at least notice when they arise, observe them, and go back to focusing on the present moment. The wisdom of the cluster crystal has been spoken. Be with it. Rejoice in it. Incorporate it into your being.

The multifaceted shapes and textures carry nature's influence and wisdom each surface and its insides are precious Even the colors are different and the value increases No no monetary value is given or needed. All that remains is intrinsic value This intrinsic value is worth everything It surpasses comprehension yet it doesn't It carries within the knowing that there are always unseen forces at play How one stays connected to those forces with awareness determines the shape it takes As you notice visually and tactilely some surfaces are granulated some are rough some are smoother than others Each surface has value and combined they carry as a whole a piece of all-knowing wisdom With clear intention mind and heart one can listen and feel and experience

The memory of parts no longer connected stays within absorbed by those previously in contact with them so that the knowing is preserved and shared. Knowing that each species has a role to play, has lessons to learn, has life to experience. Regardless of how long or how short a life lasts, the imprint reverberates, and it never ends because its presence once impacted another and the ripple effects never ever end. It does not matter how long time passes, how many transformations, generations, environmental, political, and social-cultural changes have happened since one existed. There is always a small seed and influence holding the wisdom of the past of what once was. Nothing is wasted.

Especially when one chooses to be present to connect to be to serve to experience to exist no matter what's happening outside oneself keeping the peace and groundedness within will make a difference

For today rest in the knowing that one's essence never expires

There is a self-cleaning technique to absorb unhealthy presences detriments debris and release them through the base back to earth fully transformed The transformation takes place within the crystals The energy comes in perhaps full of rage hatred anger aversions and love and light embrace them all Allow them to exist and be seen in a safe and secluded yet clear environment By being involved encapsulated in higher vibrations of love and light the energies relax the density becomes ephemeral and they are integrated into the crystal with their newfound wisdom

The unique colors present in the cluster's base and sides are reminders of the transformed energies that are now part of the whole. From this newfound space of acceptance, clarity, and value, the vibration is elevated to the highest light. The cluster remains strong and steady in its existence, welcoming and absorbing what resonates, providing the choice for each atom to be transformed or released without judgment.

The passed-through ones as well as the transformed ones leave a mark and a knowing that every entity is part of the whole and has its role to play. The beauty of the cluster crystal lies in the combination of all forces and the grounded wisdom to transform, hold space, and enlighten the environment it is in.

The cluster crystal does not have a negative voice within or the so called inner critic. It knows that it went through millennia of transformations based on the ground it stood. The only option was and is to embrace itself fully every crack, every surface, every color, and stay grounded with strength yet gentleness. It does not challenge others into a debate; it allows every being to exist as they choose. It doesn't even fear its aliveness. It knows that everything is transformed daily and if something is to happen to it or parts of it, each atom will have within the knowledge of the whole. Its presence alone speaks volumes. The ability to impact the environment and those around it is inherited within.

How does the cluster stay grounded and not get distracted It stands still committed to its mission and purpose To be a grounded clearing and strong presence There is no need to give energy and attention to everything that is out there Simply knowing the purpose to exist sharing the wisdom within transforming the debris towards the light and staying committed to it despite all else is not only all that matters but also it is what gives us the capacity strength space and knowing to do it Commitment to the purpose of alignment alignment with the divine alignment to all that is alignment to earth and all living things

There is no space from which distraction can enter and influence the purpose within. The groundedness in the truth of being shields the cluster from any distraction and doubt that may occur in humans. Groundedness in the knowing that there is no higher achievement or anything that matters most than to live one's purpose fully and gracefully and to be a source of light and healing to all entities alive or not. There is also no greed or attachment to any outcome, result, fame. All of it exists within and knowing is the path. Even if it seems like no one is listening, the universe as a whole is noticing and rejoicing in each being's wisdom.

Observing another side of it

There seems to be another entry point. It shines and it seems tiny, yet it may provide a portal or a window to the unknown. What is the message? No matter how hidden the treasures are inside of you, allow them to be seen, excavate, and bring forth your knowledge, strength, creativity, wisdom. Pay attention to the little corners of life, connect with its offerings, and allow them to bathe you with light. The shiny object is a reminder that anything is possible when one focuses on being present, awake, and aware. How to wake up, you may ask. By focusing, looking in different ways, changing one's point of view, and choosing to be grounded and connected. It is that simple. Yet distractions, negativity, self-doubt, all of them play a role, even perhaps the impostor syndrome may play a role in blocking one's view. Sit with the intention to be present, to connect, to learn, and to expand.

Even though the cluster crystal structure may not change transformations are happening at all times. It may simply be adjusting to and reflecting the light based on the time of day. Or more deeply moving energy through and releasing it back to the environment. The surfaces are mostly shining based on the light in the room and how it is held. Today's message is to practice being present, aware, and awake. While one can shift with the light and environment, keeping in alignment with the source of the soul's wisdom helps to enhance one's life, perspective, relationships, and connections with self and other beings. Clearing what no longer serves, shedding protective layers, shedding defensive layers, and opening oneself up for deep, grounded, unprecedented change and transformation. Allowing everything that no longer serves the soul to be released and let go. Welcoming light, energy, and wisdom for the next stage of the soul's development and expansion. Allowing wisdom to flow through with ease and grace. Thanking all beings for their existence and contribution, currently alive in this dimension and beyond.

Facing the bottom layer of the crystal

The cluster touching the knee feels cold. The bottom or layer underneath the crystals has hints of white, orange, black, clear, and other shades. It has a crater-like partition on its left side, an entry or exit point, and a space in between to give breathing room. It has an appearance of being solid. In order to fulfill its purpose to hold space for all beings, it needs to be solid and grounded, yet it is porous as everything on Earth does or is. Ground and release is the message. Allow for what no longer serves to leave the body and mind, invite what serves to come in and stay, transform what is left into higher vibrations, and thus create a system that functions fully aligned with one's higher purpose. Each microcosmic spot of color holds within memories, lessons, and wisdom, and there is no dwelling on what once was and no longer is, there is only presence, knowing, and wisdom.

Noticing some shapes leaning on or attached to other shapes or coming out of a shape

The one coming out of shape is the wisdom being born or expanding from within. There is more to learn and experience than the original body could hold, and therefore a new piece emerges. It highlights the interconnectedness of its origins and what is yet to come. Its roots are still connected to the main crystal, which is attached from several surfaces to other crystals in the cluster. They coexist with ease in a symbiotic, supportive relationship.

If some edges seem damaged or *broken* it means that at some point there was damage self-inflicted or inflicted by others. It may have many meanings and feelings. One can grieve the loss of what no longer is, cry due to body pain that may exist at the time of rupture, and emotional pain for the parts of self that were severed. This can be in the moment and pass, or linger. Although based on the cluster crystals structure, no feeling lingers. They are felt in real time, experienced, embraced, and acknowledged, and they pass, transformed into something else, or another feeling, and so it is. There is joy in knowing that the chip of the crystal, the tiny piece, no longer connected physically to the cluster crystals, contains wholeness and the wisdom of the whole cluster. It then has the power to continue its existence, knowing that it is indeed part of the whole, no matter its physical location or distance from its origins.

Looking at the cluster crystal from a different point of view reveals nuances never before seen

Having another angle or perspective to observe demonstrates the depth and infinite wisdom present within. That is valid for any being; the depth is unsurmountable and one can spend a lifetime or more exploring it and never cease to encounter something else to notice, experience, absorb, comprehend, evolve. This is not to discourage exploration. Indeed, it encourages one to be ever-evolving, shifting, acquiring knowledge, and expanding one's sense of being and purpose. By committing to and allowing flexibility to exist, one can know that each day opens up new possibilities, enhanced awareness, and a depth of awakening unlike any other. Shift, learn, study, unique points of view, embrace the whole.

When people see you in a box they may block you from promotions from achievements at work and that positions them to keep you down Yet you keep going moving taking steps to produce to show to make a difference Even when you leave the environment the energy of those who kept you down and the negative way they doubted you would achieve if not addressed hangs over your head You may need to consider your qualifications ha qualifications or perhaps it is indeed clarifications of your power and responsibilities and what you can achieve Clarity light flower perhaps Put down shrinking and then ground connect and somehow manage to flourish again

The more one observes a surface the more nuances are identified. How some parts seemed to have been crushed at some point in time and others are intact. Or if ever there was such a thing as intact. There are also areas where the colors at the edges of the crystal are orange or Earth-like colors possibly touched by other environmental expressions that left a mark. A mark is always left no matter how small tiny even. The species have an interconnectedness that is shared through touch through movement through air through telepathy and through matter. Each existence matters and can be recognized as mattering by those willing to do so.

Looking at it from different angles each day or the same angles and a different point of view

The tiniest of differences in the process of awakening or even of awareness can spark quantum progress. The messages may or may not change yet how they are perceived changes. The clearer one gets about the intention to see clearly the deeper the knowing becomes. Parts abruptly cut from the source may originally grieve the loss of that connection. As the pain shifts it is felt and transformed. There is space for remembrance for connection for carrying on with parts of that soul that no longer exist. Find peace from a space of knowing and love.

The reflection itself depends on the angle of the object the subject the light in the room and the point of view one chooses to look at something in order to see it or not Is it a choice or is it what it is It is both neither or all options combined without either or The way to look at something is without much expectation or predetermined conclusions or assumptions It allows for more clarity of perception Yet what may determine the level of clarity may be the level of awareness neutrality willingness to see beyond the surface and most of all a release of inherited belief systems They cloud not only the view but also the understanding of what is seen

There is no need to despair if the vision is still blurred It is what it is

The important and key component in seeing clearly is to commit to seeing to commit to letting go to commit to surrendering and to allow the unknown to become known without judgment or justification for what it is or it is not The more release and let go the clearer the vision and capacity to see further than appearance

At this moment the temperature feels cold which is different. It seems like no attention was given to it before now. Another example of how perception changes not only due to the angle, the color, the shape, the time of day, the texture, but also the temperature. There may even be other aspects that have not been brought up to conscious awareness yet. Is the cold temperature related to the temperature in the environment or is it the inner peace or turmoil within that causes the temperature to shift. Or both.

The larger size crystals may keep the attention or even bring attention to the self or the whole. Nonetheless by pausing and connecting at the base of the cluster the details and variety of its surface turn out to be spectacular. Each granulated and at times smooth surface demonstrates a different kind of beauty. A reminder to value and appreciate each inch of oneself no matter the internal struggles that may be occurring. Furthermore by appreciating beauty at any stage appearance color shape and size the inner turmoil may start subsiding. Transformation happens from the inside out. Finding peace with the outside brings inner peace while inner peace is a catalyst for outer peace. It is all connected and influenced by one another. The light shining here can be the sparkle that someone else needs elsewhere. Be trusting and clear and allow the focused mind and heart to show the way the path the walk towards a new system a system that values cooperation respect empathy communication and love.

Sounds of lawn mowing in the background

In a relationship of crystals connected to each other all parts are aware of the vital elements that they carry and how essential each element is for the survival of the unity let alone for the potential to thrive Each unit is in the process of constantly clearing and releasing Letting go of resentments attachments and understanding and appreciating what is in each moment matters Being present and aware 24x7 and diligent with the commitment to shift and grow and perhaps simply be To exist with ease and fulfill one's purpose without challenging it A pure purpose grounded in wisdom light and love If the purpose is impure then more clearing and excavating is needed to find the purest and most aligned purpose within From a space of knowing aligned action can be taken that embraces the highest good of all from a higher vibration way of being

Seeing through one of the crystals that lay at a 25-degree angle

While one of its edges outside seems to have been crushed at some point the attention is going through the inside of the crystal. It seems to be hollow for a bit and then there are smaller crystals within giving texture and perhaps depth to what's inside. A reminder that appearances are not all that exist. The inside provides strength, power, and wisdom. There is so much to learn, to see, to experience. On the one hand, the realm of possibilities increases with each observation. On the other hand, the realm of possibilities increases with each observation. It all depends on one's point of view, intentions, and goals. If the goal is a destination, then the infinite possibilities are hard to accept and embrace. If the goal is to keep devolving and evolving, then the infinite possibilities are enriching and encouraging.

There is magnitude in the larger crystal that goes from one side to the next. It holds its place seemingly unscathed while it does not make self-aggrandizing statements. It knows that everyone has a part to play and while some onlookers may be drawn to it others may not and it is fine.

The granulated base of the crystal serves as a glue for the whole it provides not only the structure and connection but also the strength and support the cluster needs to stay as one Each part has a role to play and knows that it is essential There is no consideration of having more value than another They are self-assured and self-actualized by practicing their purpose serving their purpose and being in the knowing that that is what matters most The *glue* is warm milky orange and has the essential work of keeping the system flowing with ease No job is too small or too big

Some crystals are clearer than others and are see-through. They don't hold anything in. With the capacity to clean and cleanse, self-cleanse, they can handle anything that passes by them. If there are negative energies, they pass through with no impact. If they receive positive energies, they pass through with no impact either. What do positive and negative energies mean? The energies are the same; energy is energy. There is a human interpretation that labels it in one way or another; it may be related to how the energy makes someone feel. Energies related to stress, fear, judgment, envy, anger, may appear negative, or may feel painful within one's body, but if they are allowed to exist and pass through, there is no need to label them. They just are. With the knowing that they will pass, there is no need to resist or reject it. With muscles at ease, the pain is minimized and shifted more proactively. There needs to be a level of awareness and effort to minimize negative responses to what is

Passageways are everywhere. You can be in a room seamlessly going about your day and you can go through a passageway that takes you to another dimension of being and living. It takes awareness, intention, commitment, and focused attention. Once those are in place, one can perceive a passageway and walk through it or allow it to walk through you. The room is the same, the geographical location is the same, but something primal has shifted. In this parallel yet connected vibration, there are limitless possibilities and opportunities to be present, learn, evolve. From this place, intentions are heightened, and manifestations occur with exponential speed. What's left behind: Insecurities, self-doubt, regrets, shame, guilt, uncertainties, judgments, attachments, veils. What's brought in: A knowing that one is enough, nakedness, awareness, and vulnerability are present, and it feels safe, as if anything was possible. Downloads of cosmic, metaphysical, mystical wisdom transpire with ease and grace. From that place of all-knowing or knowing a few levels higher than before, there is freedom to create, to attract, to revolutionize what is or used to be. In the present moment, there is contentment, there is the knowing that achievements do not make a person. A person is made of soul, and souls have nothing to prove, nothing to achieve in the material world. The only purposeful reason for being is to know oneself enough to be able to function in the world in a loving, kind, wise manner.

The ins and outs of a body of a being of a crystal It can be solid or hollow it can be soft or rough or anything in between There may be caves that take one inside dark places within or toward the light The same direction the same path the choices and awareness levels are the ones that may change while the path remains the same

Or does it How can one experience dark or light on the same path If it is either or wouldn't there be a choice between a light path and a dark path If the path is only one once the choice is made to move with awareness and see light doesn't that automatically change the path or at least how the path is perceived Or if the path is taken without awareness and it is dark wouldn't it seem like a different path altogether It seems like the reality is that a path can take many forms and shapes and as the one walking the path the only way to the other side is through Would you choose to be aware and see the light or travel in the dark There is no one right answer or right path for that matter All that exists is a choice What would you choose

There is a dark dot on the long crystal was it not noticeable before or is it a new creation All options are valid and can coexist If it is new perhaps it did process emotions and got a new marking as a reminder of the cleansing tool that is present It represents any interpretation one chooses to give to it perfectionism is an illusion the more markings the more powerful the processing was or is One can live in harmony with all parts of oneself once one allows it to be Having present awareness increases one's perception of reality and what could be What nuances are out there that are not perceived through the naked eye without awareness What is needed to see Groundedness willingness presence

Cluster crystal at a distance on the shelf nearby

From a distance the details are blurred. Only the silhouette surrounding it can be seen. There is a shining spot in front towards the bottom center of it that was not noticed previously. It could be the way the light is shining on it from this view or it could be that the attention wasn't on that spot until now. There is curiosity to approach it and see a close-up of it. For now it's a moment to reflect on the angles of observation and distance. How the eyes can see differently based on location, light, angle, time of day, as well as the capacity to see with one's third eye. The message may be that there is a light in everything. The willingness to either see or ignore it does not change its existence.

The more time spent observing the cluster crystal the more it seems like it is constantly changing Or that there is more to observe or notice The longer crystal seems to have an indentation not previously noticeable It might have been there all along or it may have shown up later somehow formed by the energies in the room or the environment In the most likelihood it was there just not observed or the attention was not going there If that is the case how can we use it on ourselves What parts of self are not being observed and as such not being explored or included in the being as a whole What would it take to observe oneself daily from different angles What parts of self could be revealed Would be revealed Would it be a shadow part pulling the strings unnoticeably to the unaware eye Or would it be light shut down by trauma fear and shame There is no judgment about one or the other they are simply possibilities and when acknowledged they can be catalysts for healing clearing and showing up in the world more authentically and connected to the source without impediment

There are indentations in one of the crystals being observed at this time. Some of them grow outward and can be felt through touch, while others are inward and not felt. Activating different senses brings new perspectives and wisdom. Each surface has its power and intention for being in the world, like a human being's cells in their body. They simply exist and although rarely acknowledged, unless something is going terribly wrong, they are a part of an ecosystem that works together in harmony and peace with the knowing that each cell matters.

Interesting to notice some bronze color at the top of the longest crystal a few lines from this point of view highlighted outside but faded within the crystal There are crown jewels of memory of experience and of the origins of time space and matter Each part is as relevant as the others even if hidden How come it takes so long to perceive the whole It takes a lifetime plus The clearer the mind the clearer one can see what's right in front of them Yet sometimes they are hidden either because of the point of view the lighting or most likely the readiness of the soul to see new layers

Cluster crystal on its side

This area is part of the glue and part of the clearing
It also adds a layer of protection from outside influences
by stopping anything from penetrating this way
Underneath it there is wisdom to protect How to access
it To learn the lesson behind the protective layer one
needs to focus on the soul level be present with a clear
mind intentionally open and aware of the messages
beyond the wall One can keep going without awareness
and the alternative is to be aware present listen connect
If a part of oneself is broken or cut apart release it
and let it go

There is a dance and a grace that is required to exist in harmony with one's surroundings. It can be as simple as floating in place and allowing another to lean in. It can be as complex as floating and allowing another to lean in. It depends on one's point of view, attention, intention, and attitude toward one's purpose, beyond having recognition and knowing that one's value comes from within.

How can one open the curtain of their own insecurities fears and anxieties and let the light in Different light and different points of view yet in its essence the wisdom and deep knowing are unwavering There is always more to learn to develop to heal to expand

From another point of view

The longest crystal seems to be a combination of two crystals connected at the center and growing in opposite directions. That combination shows the strength of the partnership. Each part of both sides adjusted to fit with one another and with the whole. There is no strong pull and push from one side or the other. There is respect, adjustment, and understanding of one another's characteristics, strengths, weaknesses, and of the higher purpose to keep the cluster united, wise, and functioning in harmony.

Some parts of the self are more solid than others or appear to be based on color and shape. They hold different functions while they understand the functions of the other parts of the self. They are self-assured by their role and do not feel challenged by or feel animosity and jealousy towards each part of self or of the other. It understands that each one has unique and crucial value regardless of their dimension, shape, color, and consistency. What matters is showing up, being present, and knowing one's purpose and value. There is no need to seek validation or to doubt one's contribution. There is only strength, love, and self-actualization.

The information and knowledge are endless and will never cease. It is up to you to decide when you are done or not. If this ritual does not continue, know that the wisdom will be shared continuously, and the recipient can choose to absorb it or not. To be open to it or not. To receive it or not. Through writing, touching, holding, connecting, observing, you said yes. Each time you are saying yes, and that is what matters. Each angle matters, each light beam, each facet, side, structure, and surface, they are part of the whole, and what makes the whole work. This is key to equanimity as well. If all parts make the whole, no part should be ignored.

From moment to moment, different aspects of one being of the soul are activated, shining or dimming, being present or hidden. It does not mean that a hidden one is less important. They are all equally important. The whole makes it so. They hold each other together in a symbiotic presence that allows for all parts to coexist with ease.

How could the book end

It ends with the knowing that the end of a book is not the end of the story

Scan the QR code to listen to a message channeled by the Wise One.





THE REVELATION

Realizing that they were reaching the end of the book, Hannah and Jake reread the last sentences:

How could the book end
It ends with the knowing that the end of a book
is not the end of the story

Hannah broke the silence. "Although many messages in the book are at times either too obvious or too out there for my taste, there are some messages like this one that I wish were true."

"Life would be much easier if it was true, or even if we believed it to be true. *"The end of a book is not the end of the story."* Or the end of a life is not the end? I imagine Noah would want us to have some faith." Jake wanted to hold on to the feeling that Noah was still around, but he knew how Hannah felt.

"I agree. But how? Noah is truly gone, devastating illnesses are alive and well, wars are never-ending, and hate keeps winning."

"It is difficult for sure, Hannah, but let's have faith. The Lighter Web founders could be on to something. We won't find a miracle cancer cure any time soon, but we can do something about the hate that people feel. That's what I love about WiFiAll, it provides a sense of freedom to journalists who otherwise would be silenced."

"I didn't mean to be such a downer. It's just that I miss Noah so much."

"I get it. How about if the Lighter Web recruits enough people to unite on a new path forward that the majority of human beings would follow." Jake was skeptical as well, but he needed to hold on to some shred of hope for a positive change.

"Wouldn't that be wonderful! If Noah was around, they would lead the way, I'm sure of it. They were a living example of kindness and empathy." Hannah felt emotional and Jake put his arm around her and pulled her close to him for a moment.

They stayed in silence for a while before Jake shared what came to his mind. "I feel like we could let their way of being rub off on us as we heal."

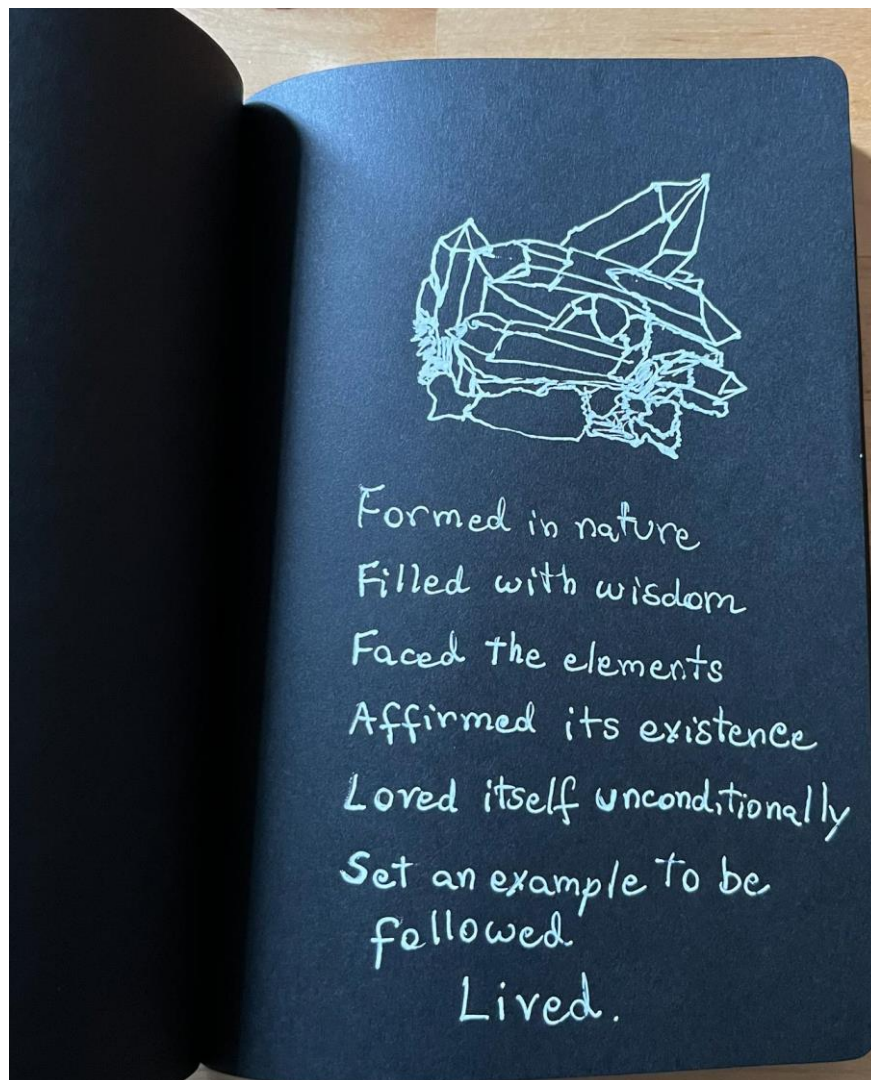
"I guess we could." Hannah desperately needed to believe that she could communicate with Noah or incorporate their way of being, but she hadn't noticed any signs.

Before flipping the page on his computer, Jake asked if Hannah was ready to finish the book.

"I am."

Once they reached the second to last page of the book, Jake and Hannah agreed to scan the QR code another time. Jake flipped the book to the back cover. They looked at each other, acknowledging that they had seen that drawing before, the image looked just like one in Noah's journal.

Without saying anything Jake got up and went to his nightstand – he grabbed Noah's notebook and flipped through it until he found the page with that same drawing.



Jake shared the page with Hannah, and they read it together. Jake noticed Hannah's face and put the journal down before inviting her to stand up and giving her a bear hug. They held each other tightly for a long minute. Then, Jake picked up a tissue box and gave Hannah one.

They were experiencing a myriad of emotions. Although it did not surprise either of them that Noah was involved, they were puzzled by the secret. What if Hannah never got the assignment? They may not have known about this side of Noah's life or this book.

They sat down and Jake spoke first. "Based on my conversation with Maya yesterday, they are still concerned about the safety of the Lighter Web's users. Maybe that's why Noah never shared their involvement with us. They were likely waiting until this parallel reality and way of being became ingrained in society. Or at least until they completed beta testing the Lighter Web."

Hannah was half listening and briefly acknowledged what Jake said before moving on. "I think we have a long way to go..."

...Besides the drawing are there any other clues to confirm how involved Noah was?"

"Let's go to the Copyright page." Jake went back to it and highlighted the first sentences on the screen.

This work was channeled by the Wise One
in conversation with a milky cluster crystal.

Cover and back cover designs by the author.

Hannah gasped before speaking up. "Noah is the author?! Were they a Wise One? When did they find time to write and be involved with the Lighter Web? I wish I had known this was going on. Did they feel judged by us too? Hannah asked in a quavering voice. That cannot be."

Jake felt uneasy as well, but he was certain Noah's reasons had nothing to do with them. On numerous occasions, Jake had stated his disinterest in learning about channeling, and Noah respected it. Noah appreciated Jake's openness to meditating and using some of their tools. That was enough. At least he would like to believe it was. After a while, Jake shared his thoughts with Hannah as she calmed down. He realized they needed a distraction and had an idea.

“Hannah, how about if I make some tea?”

“Tea? Since when do YOU have tea?”

“I still have a box of peppermint tea I got when Noah stopped drinking coffee. Let me boil some water, and you can wait for me on the sofa. I could use a break from the screen.”

“OK.” Still emotional, Okay was all Hannah could utter.

Jake came back from the kitchen carrying a tray with two tea mugs and the muffin cut in 4. Hannah spoke first.

“I never thought I’d see you drinking tea and at your place!” Hannah smiled. Jake felt the energy shifting and did not mind the tease.

“I could get used to it, as long as I don’t have to give up coffee.”

“Let’s hope you never need to.” Hannah lifted her mug as if toasting and they cheered.

“Hannah, now that we know Noah wrote it, I would like to read the crystal book again.”

“Likewise. If you want to read it on your own, that’s fine, or we could plan for me to come back next weekend.”

“I don’t mind waiting for you. I have a lot of work to do and need to decide if I will accept Maya’s job offer.”

“Do you think Noah was the one who recommended you for the job?” Hannah asked knowing that Jake was probably wondering the same thing.

“I have a feeling that they may have mentioned me at some point. And of course, it would be another plus to accept the job offer.”

They drank tea and ate in silence.

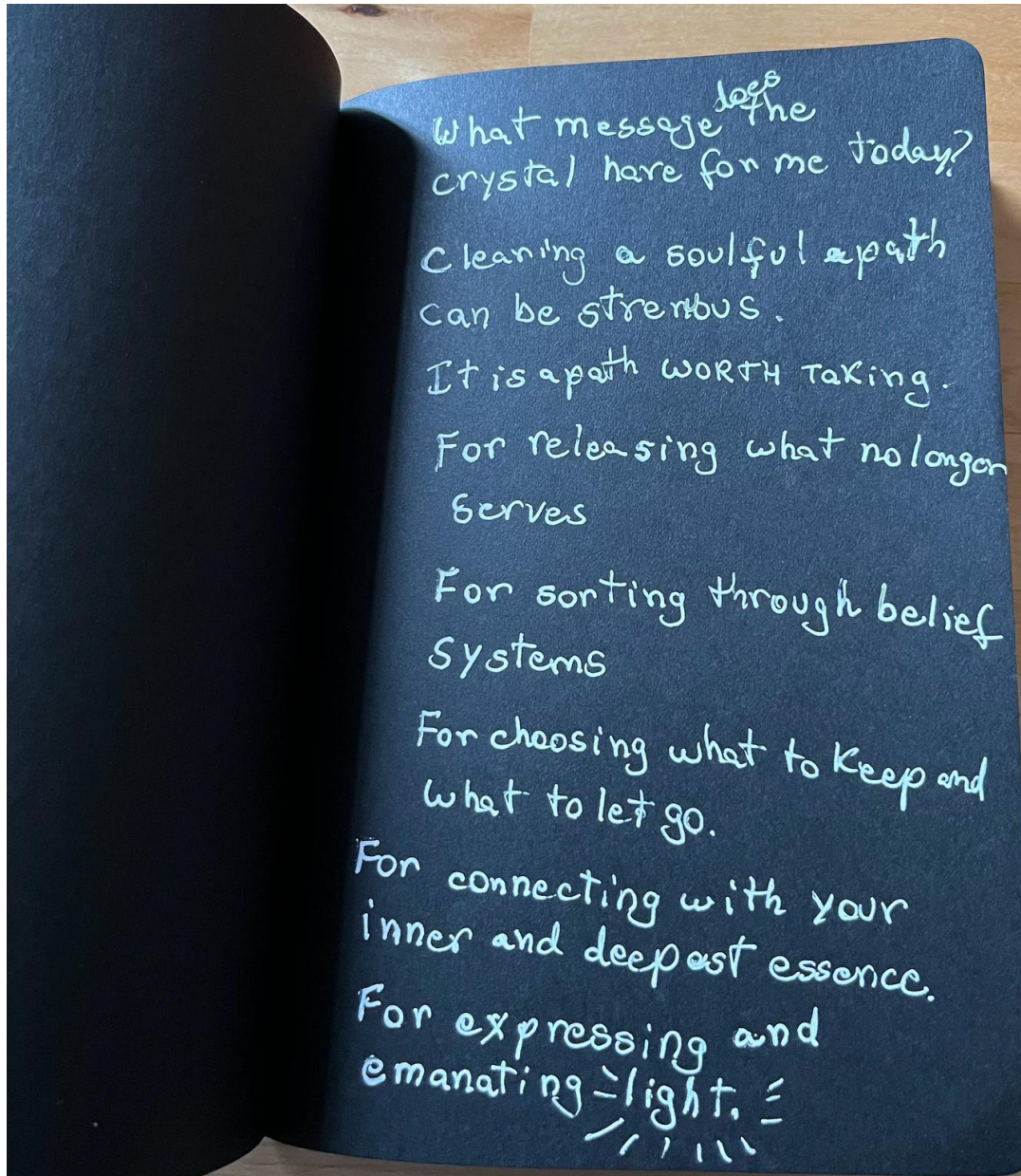
After a while, Hannah spoke up. “Noah knew we loved them, didn’t they?”

“I’m sure they did. And it makes sense that they asked me to hold on to their journal for us. They knew that this day would come. The fact that Noah gave it to us shows how much they trusted and appreciated us and our friendship.”

“You are right. Great point. I kind of feel like reading some more of their journal, would you mind?”

“Not at all.” Jake put down the tea mug he was holding and went to get the journal.

He sat down and opened the journal on a random page. Jake held the journal next to Hannah so that they could read it together.



"Wow! I know that we've read some pages of this journal before, but I think it is taking on a whole new meaning, Jake."

"I feel the same way. We could probably read the book and the journal again multiple times and still not get everything Noah intended to share."

"What do you say of coming up with a ritual to read a page of the book or their journal daily and reflecting on it?"

"That would be lovely." Jake hoped Hannah meant that they would be connecting every day to discuss it, even if virtually, and it warmed his heart. He figured he would eventually muster the courage to tell her how he felt.

"I think I'm going to head home. I won't mention Noah in my article."

"It's probably best not to. Will you be okay by yourself?"

"I will."

"I know you, try not to wallow too much about the what-ifs."

Hannah smiled. "I'll try my best." Jake did know her.

Hannah got up and grabbed her bag.

"I'll walk you to the subway."

They walked quietly, both lost in thoughts about Noah and this part of Noah's life they were in the process of uncovering. When they reached the station, Jake hugged Hannah and asked her to text him when she got home.

Hannah appreciated Jake's ability to notice how she was feeling and what she needed. Thankfully, the subway did not take long to come. When she got home, she typed the quotes she had copied from the book. Hannah planned to write the article the next day as she was too emotionally drained tonight. She only had a few chapters left of the "*Love at First Share*" book and decided to finish it, as a way to numb her feelings for now. It would be a nice distraction. The sweet ending did not disappoint.

Before going to bed, she wrote a Post-it note as a reminder to herself of what Jake said. She felt their strong bond and couldn't wait to spend more time with him.

Do not wallow too
much about the
what ifs.

The next day she wrote the follow-up piece about the *Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom* and sent it to Chris.

Subject: Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom

Chris,

My friend Jake was invited to join the beta testing of the Asherah Browser and the Lighter Web.

We read the book together on his computer. I wrote a follow-up article and included two new quotes.

Jake and I agreed to read passages of the book periodically so that we could fully grasp its wisdom. There may be other articles about it in the future.

Sincerely,

Hannah Blues.

More on the Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom

By Nox H.B.



Thank you to all our readers who sent us your thoughts on the quotes we [posted](#) last week. I have enjoyed reading them and your diverse points of view. We seem to agree on the overarching goal of being responsible for one's actions, and of being caring and kind to oneself and one another. If you have not done so already, there is still time – please follow this [link](#) and share your thoughts.

I made a lot of progress with my research since C.A. posted my article a couple of weeks ago. The *Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom* is indeed available via the Asherah browser. A friend of mine joined its beta version recently, and I was able to read the book on his computer. They plan to complete the testing phase in the next few months.

For now, I'm going to share a bit about the book. It is a collection of passages – written by someone who called themselves The Wise One, a pseudonym to protect their identity. Sadly, they passed away and I will not have a chance to discuss their overall process with them.

The first page of the book explained that the author sat with their crystal – featured on the cover page – (see Headair's original [article](#) to check out the image) daily to observe and receive intuitive messages.

This idea may not sit well with everyone. Based on what I read, I do not think the author intended for readers to think they had a superpower. Rather they demonstrated what one can do if they could calm their mind and allow messages to come through clearly. The author spent years practicing various meditation techniques and other healing modalities to be able to concentrate and focus minimizing the mind chatter and increasing a connection to one's intuition.

Any of you could do it if you are willing to have the same kind of discipline. Until then, if ever, you and I can learn from those who did and/or still do it on a daily basis.

Here are two quotes for you to reflect on:

“The cluster crystal does not have a negative voice within or the so-called inner critic. It knows that it went through millennia of transformations based on the ground it stood. The only option was and is to embrace itself fully, every crack, every surface, every color and stay grounded with strength yet gentleness. It does not challenge others into a debate, it allows every being to exist as they choose.”

And

“Regardless of how long or how short a life lasts, the imprint reverberates, and it never ends because its presence once impacted another and the ripple effects never ever end. It does not matter how long time passes, how many transformations, generations, environmental political and social-cultural changes have happened since one existed, there is always a small seed and influence holding the wisdom of the past of what once was, nothing is wasted.”

This time, I will let you reflect on the quotes and come up with your interpretation of them before sharing mine. The invitation is for you to write down the quotes in your journal or notepad. Then, choose one quote to sit with, reflect on it quietly, and write about it. How could you apply those messages to your daily life?

If you do have a crystal at home, you may consider practicing holding it, connecting, and doing unfiltered writing based on the thoughts that come up for you. I know that the author of the *Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom* would have loved it if you attempted to do it.

After emailing Chris, I felt a deep connection to Noah. Since Noah passed away, I had been either numbing my feelings or blaming the healers who did not save them. Having read *The Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom* with Jake I feel Noah's strong presence. It is as if I experienced an opening in my heart. I held on for so long to what Noah said—*I'd like to continue living*. What if their soul wanted something else? What if Noah meant to keep living in our hearts and actions?

I was certain that the effort we put in with the Think Tank to progress the *equiarcky* cause would keep having ripple effects. I stopped going to the meetings after Noah died, and I'm starting to feel a desire to rejoin and help counteract fake news, like the ones River Stone posts, with real truths. On a personal level, how could I live more like Noah did? Present, aware, willing to listen and to help, believing in a transformative universe and the best in humanity. Could I help the Lighter Web succeed and bring Noah's soul into full actualization even after their early demise? How could I live the lighter way? I wondered.

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Appendices

Artist's Statement

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The Lighter Way

The Lighter Way is a transmedia interactive novel that follows characters in New York City and across the web set in the near future. In it, a group of unseen healers is testing a virtual space called the Lighter Web and developing a unique browser called Asherah. The Lighter Web is designed to create a community that moves people away from dehumanization and division toward empathy and love. In some ways, it exaggerates people's perspectives and points of view as an invitation to draw the reader in to follow along regardless of how they see the world and interact with one another.

The chapters are written in various styles and perspectives, including first and third-person narratives, hand-written diary entries, journalistic articles, meditation recordings, interactive pieces, and a chapbook of prose poems. The story presents a series of characters searching for the Lighter Web, including journalist Hannah and her IT friend Jake, a blogger and life coach Headair, a healer named Maya, and conspiracy theorist River. *The Lighter Way* asks questions about people's choices and behavior, how one individual impacts the whole, and if mindfulness and transparency matter.

Themes

The Lighter Way addresses grief, fake news, conspiracy theories, mindfulness, feelings, human connection, and several healing modalities.

The loss of my father during the first year of the MFA program and the grief that followed influenced many choices in writing *The Lighter Way*, including featuring a character, Noah, a dear friend of Hannah and Jake, who recently died.

The novel seeks to counteract fake news, hatred, and the “filter bubble” of social media algorithms, which may reinforce people’s tendencies to hate others and act in violent ways (Greifeneder et al.). Since I first heard about the algorithms, I have thought of ways to invert their effects, by taking viewers “up” a different path and contributing to them having a more empathetic view of others, instead of “down” towards separation and hate. Understanding the propagation of fake news and the psychology behind it (Greifeneder et al.), informed my choices and helped me write the article “Debunking Claims of Crystal Power” written by the character River Stone for the fictional paper – FN Times (code for Fake News Times).

During my last semester teaching an entrepreneurial mindset course in New York in 2022, I shared my algorithm vision and venture concept with students, when we were reflecting on a non-fatal subway shooting that happened the day before. Several students said my idea was impossible. We discussed how the algorithms are set, and even experts can’t explain why they perform the way they do. Students also argued that people who have hateful tendencies never change anyway. Afterward, I started envisioning that, in speculative fiction, anything is possible. Since then, I have been exploring the following question: What if we created a new system managed by humans concerned with the highest good of all?

When I read about Margaret Atwood’s process of using real-life events from history to write *The Handmaid’s Tale*, I thought of drawing from my experience with healing techniques that exist to create an environment and a world where humans treat each other with kindness and respect. If hate and animosity show up in the Lighter Web, facilitators will intervene before someone filled with hate

performs ill-intended actions. I read a few articles discussing how people transformed from being racists and antisemitic into being more understanding and changing their views and behavior (Lopez; Resnick). I plan to continue incorporating such examples to help inform how the Lighter Web will create a more respectful, inclusive, and loving world.

The ethnic food that characters eat is often mentioned. As the story moves inside the Lighter Web, studies will be found, within the Recipes box of the browser, regarding how the type of food consumed impacts one's mental health and health in general. Some of the characters in the book have healthier food habits than others, which influence not only their well-being but also the way they behave and see the world.

Content Development

As a lifelong student of mindfulness, self-development, and transformational practices, I have incorporated some of the tools I have learned over the years into the narrative: The dialogue between Headair and Maya in chapter 4 was inspired by nonviolent communication (Bond; Rosenberg); the character Headair practices EFT – Emotional Freedom Technique, a.k.a. “tapping” (Ortner); and the meditation tool Jake remembered learning from Noah in chapter 6 came from Elizabeth Lesser's *The Seeker's Guide*.

In order to write an alternative reality and create the Lighter Web, I decided to study and better understand the Dark Web. From Sion Retzkin's *Hands-on Dark Web Analysis* book, I learned how the Dark Web works, and the positives and negatives of its use. The fact that one needs a browser, Tor, to access the Dark Web inspired the creation of a browser called Asherah—the only path to entering the

Lighter Web. Based on Retzkin's book and other articles I read, I chose business practices that value mindfulness, empathy, and care above profit and greed.

Originally I thought of using Esperanto as the official language of the Lighter Web; a language developed by L.L. Zamenhof in the 19th Century to serve as an international auxiliary language to erase communication barriers and help bring peace to the world. I have been studying it since December 2023 but decided that having the Lighter Web in English would be more accessible than using Esperanto. However, when I made up a few names, I used Esperanto. For example, Konservista meaning conservative is the name of River's university; the fictional country Kateno meaning shackle is Jake's place of birth; and NeniuKuketoj.com meaning no cookies is the name of the search engine Hannah uses not to be tracked. I considered using the Esperanto version of "equiarchy", which would be "ekvarkio" but the meaning would not be clear. I opted instead, to use the root of the word patriarchy which comes from the Greek word "*patriarkhe*" (ruling father), and I came up with "equiarcky" meaning equity for all.

The author Yuval Noah Harari in his book *Sapiens – A Brief History of Humankind*, showcased how the worst in humanity evolved and how we became what we are today. What if we could change how humans choose to live and treat each other? What if the lifestyle of inclusive communities, climate consciousness, solidarity, and diversity could become the norm? What if a new way of living could be created before human beings finish destroying Earth or AI fully takes over humanity?

Last summer, I had the opportunity to visit the first women led Indigenous *Pataxó* tribe group in Porto Seguro, BA Brazil. During the presentation of one of its leaders, I asked how they dealt with conflict. She said that before they punch one another, they are brought in front of the tribal Chief who intervenes and mediates communication. Then, those in conflict are never left alone, they have a team checking in on

them, helping them calm down and move past the situation. They visit the Chief every two weeks until things have shifted. I plan to incorporate this style of managing conflict in future chapters or the sequel (Pataxó, personal communication, July 5th, 2023).

Inspiration and Narrative Techniques

While I considered how to write a more empathetic world, I sat with a cluster crystal and journaled messages as if the crystal had wisdom. It was a meditative practice, a way to go beyond the resistance I experienced. This practice lasted over 40 days and it opened me up to inspiration. The vision for *The Lighter Way* gradually developed. I typed the messages I received and realized it could become a chapbook and be included in the thesis. Following my advisor's suggestion, the *Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom* chapbook was included as the tenth chapter.

I read books in the past two years that involved searching for a book or an artwork or having a mystery as part of their plot. Books such as *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close: A Novel* by Jonathan S. Foer, and *The Labyrinth of the Spirits* by Carlos Ruiz Zafón inspired me to include an enigmatic path to finding the Lighter Web with quotes from the chapbook being the first clue. Those two books also reinforced my desire to include visual elements, as they both have images within.

I was inspired to add a twist to the chapbook after I read Pedro Mairal's book *The Missing Year of Juan Salviatierra*, which takes the protagonist on a journey to find a missing painting that reveals secrets about Juan Salviatierra's life (Mairal and Caistor). The *Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom's* fictional author is revealed at the end of *The Lighter Way*.

My desire to incorporate inspiring messages throughout the novel was supported by Octavia Butler's *Parable of the Sower* book. The main character/narrator Lauren Olamina starts each chapter with a passage from "Earthseed: The Books of the Living" – a religion she is creating (Butler).

Several other books inspired the incorporation of media and interactive elements within the novel:

I drew the repetition technique from the strategy used by Sabrina Vourvoulias in the novelette *Saint Simon of 9th and Oblivion*. Early on it portrays a dialogue between an immigrant young lady and a suspected supernatural religious figure. Some of the sentences he tells her, in the beginning, are later made into subheadings (Vourvoulias).

When choosing to interact with the chapbook throughout the novel, I considered how the author Barbara Browning interacted with her dance videos to write *I'm Trying to Reach You*, and how Clarissa Pinkola Estés reveals fairy tales, myths, and stories to illustrate empowering messages in *Women Who Run with the Wolves*. Additionally, *The Lighter Way*, somewhat subtly, interacts with my website: the page that blocks River from accessing the Lighter Web, recommends that he checks out AskOthersTrustYourself.com for self-development practices, and when Hannah talks about Headair's article "Get Over it Already or Maybe Not", the title is from a [blog post](#) I wrote in 2013.

The *Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom* chapbook invites readers to read it from any page, and Gretchen Henderson does the same in the *Galerie de Différenté* book. Readers have several options to engage with *The Lighter Way*, a strategy somewhat similar to Henderson's choice of involving the audience in creating the book and art catalog.

As previously mentioned, I wanted to incorporate techniques that I have applied in my life, including meditation and nonviolent communication tools, in a gentle way to encourage readers to try some or all of them. The author, CA Conrad, in the book *A BEAUTIFUL MARSUPIAL AFTERNOON NEW (SOMA) TICS*,

describes a series of exercises they practiced that involved physical activities and writing, and the poetry that followed, inspiring readers to attempt the same SOMA(TICS) exercises or create their own.

I read several books in which visual art deepens the reader's ability to engage with someone else's grief and connect to their own experiences. Examples of those works are Karen Green's *Bough Down*, which grapples with her husband's suicide through poems, collages, stamps, and images; Kate Greenstreet's *Young Tambling*, which includes prose, poetry, erasure poetry, lists, and images; and Diana Khoi Nguyen's *Ghost Of*, which deals with the suicide of the author's brother and includes family photos and unique poetry formats.

Interactive Opportunities and Format

The first interactive piece created – a barrier/"lightwall" to access the Lighter Web was a questionnaire written in Python with the help of my nephew Guido Zylbersztein. Readers can attempt to answer the questions, as characters Jake (chapter 6) and River (chapter 5) do, and find out how far they would go. If potential users miss the first question, the system will ask them to return on a specific date six months from their first attempt. The wait time decreases with each adequately answered question, and if someone gets through all but the last question, the system will ask them to come back a month later. In the book, instead of entering a specific day and thus dating the novel, I switched the responses to the characters Jake and River to say "...come back in six months" instead.

Four other chapters of *The Lighter Way* allow readers to engage: they can help River develop a conspiracy theory about the Lighter Web; share their thoughts on some of the chapbook passages with Hannah; and listen to a few recorded messages by scanning QR codes. Unfortunately, with the fast pace of technology, it is not certain how long the interactive pieces will be available. For now, the Python

questionnaire can be accessed on my website by following this [link](#) and using the password: Lighter. The audio recordings can be found by scanning the QR codes; the conspiracy theory page can be accessed here: <https://bit.ly/DestroybyRiver>; and the interactive survey can be found through this [link](#). I registered the domain name AsherahLight.com but have not yet created a website. *The Lighter Way* also mentioned a non-meditation video by Pema Chödrön that can be found [here](#), an EFT article published by the U.S. National Library of Medicine available [here](#), and the book *Big Magic* by Elizabeth Gilbert.

The format of *The Lighter Way* may vary based on where it is published. The print version would likely include the full chapbook as one of the chapters, while an ebook version may include passages of the book interposed between chapters. I also consider publishing it as a web page, and the *Milky Cluster Crystal Book of Wisdom* would need to be downloaded in full as the story develops but would not be available within the book. In this web format, it becomes feasible to include additional interactive pieces, such as videos, a collaborative version of The Acceptance Chronicle with guest writers, and a community of like-minded individuals.

Future Development and Spin-offs

The Lighter Way is a work in progress, the story is still developing, and therefore, new characters and situations will come to light. The journey will continue with the current characters as well. For example, the antagonist River will study mindfulness to try tricking the lightwall, and access and destroy the Lighter Web. However, the process he takes gradually shifts his mindset and intentions. By the time he accesses the Lighter Web, he opts to debunk and revert the conspiracy theory he helped spread and to become an advocate for a different way of being that prioritizes care for all human beings and the environment they live in.

Furthermore, a romantic loving, and kind relationship develops between Hannah and Jake, and together they may be able to move past their skepticism. Hence, they further experience their connection with Noah and with the mindfulness practices Noah once shared with them and wrote about.

The potential spin-offs include:

- The Enlightenment Docuseries that Jake watches.
- The romance novel that Hannah reads *Love at First Share*.
- The Acceptance Chronicle that is mentioned in chapter 8.

Gratitude and Conclusion

I had the opportunity to incorporate feedback from classmates and faculty who offered suggestions during the salons, and I appreciate everyone's comments and support. Amaranth Borsuk's book recommendations as my idea kept shifting and evolving, and her developmental and copyediting suggestions were invaluable. My husband Pat Simmons read many drafts, suggested edits, and challenged the narrative. I am deeply grateful.

Thank you to the committee of advisors Amaranth Borsuk and Ching-In Chen, my husband, my nephew, and the MFA cohort for their recommendations and help in the process of writing *The Lighter Way*.

Thank you to my family and friends in Brazil, Argentina, and the U.S. who support my journey and inspire me daily through how they choose to live their lives. Finally, I am grateful for other books I have read, too numerous to mention here, that will continue influencing my writing.

I am hopeful that *The Lighter Way* with its Lighter Web, lightwall, Asherah browser, and its committee of healers and leaders will be able to create lasting change. Once the Lighter Web beta testing is complete, and more users go through the lightwall to join the conversation, learn, and apply mindfulness tools, more answers will be revealed.

May *The Lighter Way* plant seeds and inspire readers to make long-lasting mindful change.

As you read thus far, I invite you to engage with all aspects of the Lighter Web and consider incorporating the tools shared into your daily life.

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Python Lighter Web Questionnaire - "lightwall"

```
#The Asherah access point seeks to identify potential users with benevolent
intentions to join the Lighter Web (LW) community.
#To keep LW free from MDM information, and those with ill intent towards others,
the LW access is only granted to those who speak #truthfully and value peace,
understanding, and harmony.

import datetime

ret_2 = False
ret_3 = False
ret_4 = False
ret_5 = False
ret_6 = False

def enter_name():
    full_name = input("Full name: ")
    name, last_name = full_name.split()
    while True:
        if len(last_name) < 3:
            answer = input(f"Is '{last_name}' your real last name? (Y/N)\n")
            if answer not in ("yes, Yes, YES, y, Y"):
                last_name = input("Please type your last name: ")
            else:
                break
        else:
            break
    return f"{name} {last_name}"

def first_question():
    word_list = ("connection", "wisdom", "shared reality", "truth", "insights",
"community", "support", "purpose", "opportunity", "meaning", "artful", "loving",
"joy", "fulfillment", "clarity", "resilience", "harmony", "depth",
"conversation", "respect", "positivity", "partnership",
"art", "peace", "love", "understanding", "miracles",
"tolerance", "friendship", "friends", "help", "happiness", "consciousness",
"respect", "belonging", "growth", "healing", "acceptance", "inspiration",
"transformation", "transformative", "oneness", "empowerment")
    answer = input("What would you like to gain from accessing the Lighter Web? -
lowercase, please\n")
    for word in answer.split():
        if word.lower() in word_list:
            return True
```

```

return False

def second_question():
    while True:
        answer = input("\nHow often do you consider different points of view to
solve a conflict?\na) never\nb) seldom\nc) sometimes\nd) often\ne) always\n")
        if answer.lower() in ("a", "never", "b", "seldom"):
            return False
        elif answer.lower() in ("c", "sometimes", "d", "often", "e", "always"):
            return True
        else:
            print("Invalid answer")

def third_question():
    word_list = ("nonviolent", "nvc", "communication", "empathy", "support",
"loving", "partnership", "light", "conversations", "collaboration", "presence",
"awareness", "respecting",
                "creativity", "peace", "love", "patience", "care", "tolerance",
"community", "understanding", "compassion", "dialogue", "listening",
"inclusivity", "diversity", "harmony",
                "kind", "kindness", "self-awareness", "mindfulness", "trust",
"dignity", "meditation", "responsibility", "connection", "help", "generosity",
"diversity", "solidarity", "fairness", "forgiveness", "cooperation", "curiosity",
"respect", "authenticity")
    answer = input("What vision do you have for creating a more understanding
world? - lowercase please\n")
    for word in answer.split():
        if word.lower() in word_list:
            return True
    return False

def fourth_question():
    while True:
        answer = input("\nWhich activity below helped you become the person you
are today? - please pick the main activity and type its letter\na) Journaling\nb)
Meditation\nc) Mindful Walks in Nature\nd) Pathwork\ne) Core Energetics\nf)
Energy Healing Modalities\ng) Nonviolent Communication\nh) Active Listening\ni)
Therapy\nj) Beginner's Mind\nk) None\n")

        if answer.lower() in ("k", "none"):
            return False
        elif answer.lower() in ("a", "b", "c", "d", "e", "f", "g", "h", "i",
"j"):
            return True
        break

```

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        else:
            print("Invalid answer")

def fifth_question():
    while True:
        answer = input("\nWhen a family member or roommate comes home angry and
screams at you, how do you respond? - letter only\n
a) Walk away\n
b) Ask if they would like to talk about their day\n
c) Understand that they must have had a bad day\n
d) Scream back\n
e) Give them the silent treatment\n")

        if answer.lower() in ("d", "e"):
            return False
        elif answer.lower() in ("a", "b", "c"):
            return True
        else:
            print("Invalid answer")

def sixth_question():
    word_list = ("laugh", "communicate", "communicated", "listen", "listened",
"kiss", "hug", "held space", "empathy", "empathized", "support", "supported",
"paid", "thanked", "thanking", "thank you", "understanding", "researched",
                "creativity", "created", "peace", "love", "patience", "care",
"caring", "patient", "smiled", "gave", "joked", "joking", "laughed", "talked",
"loved", "wrote", "patient", "fixed", "safe space", "forgave",
                "kind", "kindness", "help", "contribute", "contributed",
"cooked", "cleaned", "washed", "volunteered", "donated", "mentored", "helped",
"visited", "assisted", "complimented", "connected", "drove", "together",
"accompanied")

    answer = input("How have you made someone else's day better this week? -
lowercase please\n")

    # Check if any word in the user's answer is in the word_list
    for word in answer.split():
        if word.lower() in word_list:
            return True

    # If no matching word is found, return False
    return False

# Function to calculate the date after a specified number of months from today
def calculate_months_from_today(months):
    today = datetime.date.today()
    future_date = today + datetime.timedelta(days=months * 30)
    return future_date

```

```

# ... (rest of code)

# Calculate dates for 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 months from today
six_months_date = calculate_months_from_today(6)
five_months_date = calculate_months_from_today(5)
four_months_date = calculate_months_from_today(4)
three_months_date = calculate_months_from_today(3)
two_months_date = calculate_months_from_today(2)
one_month_date = calculate_months_from_today(1)

print("Welcome to Asherah Access!")
full_name = enter_name()
print(full_name)

# First question
print("The Lighter Web:")
ret_1 = first_question()

# Second question
if ret_1:
    print("Conflict Management:")
    ret_2 = second_question()
else:
    print("Please continue your self-development practice and come back on or
after", six_months_date.strftime('%Y-%m-%d'))
    quit()

# Third question
if ret_2:
    print("A Better World:")
    ret_3 = third_question()
else:
    print("Please continue your self-development practice and come back on or
after", five_months_date.strftime('%Y-%m-%d'))
    quit()

# Fourth question
if ret_3:
    print("Self-development Activities:")
    ret_4 = fourth_question()
else:
    print("Please continue your self-development practice and come back on or
after", four_months_date.strftime('%Y-%m-%d'))

```

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quit()

# Fifth question
if ret_4:
    print("Emotions:")
    ret_5 = fifth_question()
else:
    print("Please continue your self-development practice and come back on or
after", three_months_date.strftime('%Y-%m-%d'))
    quit()

# Sixth question
if ret_5:
    print("Connection:")
    ret_6 = sixth_question()
else:
    print("Please continue your self-development practice and come back on or
after", two_months_date.strftime('%Y-%m-%d'))
    quit()

# End script
if ret_6:
    print("Well done! Enjoy the Lighter Web mindfully.")
else:
    print("Please continue your self-development practice and come back on or
after", one_month_date.strftime('%Y-%m-%d'))

# Final exit statement
quit()

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Jake's Answers to the Lighter Web Questionnaire

Welcome to Asherah Access!

Full name: Jacob Mountain

The Lighter Web:

What would you like to gain from accessing the Lighter Web? - lowercase, please

i'd like to gain perspective, access to the crystal book of wisdom, connect with others who are part of the same wavelength, create or be part of a community of people who want to improve the world, and elevate each person to their highest potential.

Conflict Management:

How often do you consider different points of view to solve a conflict?

- a) never
- b) seldom
- c) sometimes
- d) often
- e) always

d

A Better World:

What vision do you have for creating a more understanding world? - lowercase please

i envision every person respecting those from different backgrounds and belief systems. i would like to live in a world where people can express different opinions without fear. a world where people can communicate those opinions without causing or demanding the destruction of someone or a group with different points of view.

Self-development Activities:

Which activity below helped you become the person you are today? - please pick the main activity and type its letter

- a) Journaling
- b) Meditation
- c) Mindful Walks in Nature
- d) Pathwork
- e) Core Energetics
- f) Energy Healing Modalities
- g) Nonviolent Communication
- h) Active Listening
- i) Therapy
- j) Beginner's Mind
- k) None

h

Emotions:

When a family member or roommate comes home angry and screams at you, how do you respond? - letter only

- a) Walk away

- b) Ask if they would like to talk about their day
 - c) Understand that they must have had a bad day
 - d) Scream back
 - e) Give them the silent treatment
- a

Connection:

How have you made someone else's day better this week? - lowercase please

i helped my friend with a research project. she needed my help, i listened, stayed present, and promptly volunteered to use my resources to help her.

Well done! Please submit your full name and mailing address to receive the package which contains further instructions. This package has a unique identifier and cannot be shared with others. The Lighter Web is looking forward to your presence there.