

## Forgiving Archie Bunker



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Jerry Lazarus will present **Edgar Cayce on the Wisdom of Dreams and the Nature of Healing** at the 43rd Annual Mid-South Retreat in Burns, Tenn., Nov 7-9. Contact Joan Waddell at 901-830-7485 ([joan.are16@yahoo.com](mailto:joan.are16@yahoo.com) or [carememphis.org](http://carememphis.org)).



**L**EILA, A 66-YEAR-OLD WOMAN, reluctantly shared a dream with me: *In the last 10 years, I've had a recurring dream and the last dream was two weeks ago. All in all, I dreamt this about 15 times. I had killed and butchered my stepfather. I cut him into small pieces and buried him around the tool shed we had in the backyard. The police had come to investigate his disappearance and I was terrified they would find him, especially since the odor of decomposition was quite strong. Thank goodness, on that visit, they only came to the house and didn't go near the shed. So I enlisted my daughter and we bought jugs of bleach (I had my daughter there, although in the dream I was only 17 or 18). We poured bleach around the shed for many days until the smell was gone. We were never caught and police finally gave up.*

Leila's reluctance was understandable. When I told her that this type of dream imagery isn't uncommon, she felt comfortable sharing more details. Leila compared her late stepfather to Archie Bunker, a "gruff, ignorant, bigoted" character in the "All in the Family" sitcom from the 1970s—except that her stepfather was worse. "He was very mean, ignorant, and an alcoholic," Leila told me. "When he drank he was truly vicious. One time he chased me for more than a city block, wielding a very large butcher knife. I've no doubt that, had he caught me, he would've injured or killed me."

Leila had buried the wound from the abuse that she suffered during her teenage years and had cleverly concealed it. But she buried it with hatred. This recurring dream repeatedly brought the suppressed material to Leila's attention. She has some deep digging to do, and as painful as it is, she needs to take stock of her thoughts and feelings about her stepfather and find healing. Through this dreadful imagery, Leila is being shown a great opportunity for soul growth if she works with it.

Later Leila told me: "Being tormented by the memories of my stepfather, who is long dead, is unsettling. He was truly an evil person. Whenever I think about him, I get very angry and resentful, along with a host of other negative emotions. This is hurting me, and I want peace."

After some counseling, I suggested that Leila

pray about it and, with her permission, I too began to pray for her along with my healing group. I assured her that if she asked God for help, she could summon the strength to forgive.

Just as it's the province of the police to investigate the violations of material laws and enforce them, it's the province of the subconscious to investigate the violations of spiritual laws. The subconscious forces ever stand to guide and direct an individual in matters of spiritual law. (900-243) This is what's signified in Leila's recurring dream. The subconscious was "investigating" the dreamer for a suspected violation, so as to get the dreamer's attention. What law had she violated? "Forgive our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us," as stated in the Lord's Prayer. Put another way: "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you." (Matthew 6:27-28)

Leila took the counsel to heart; she prayed and worked toward full forgiveness. Two months later, she attained the very peace she was seeking: she had completely forgiven her stepfather and felt compassion for him.

Soon, she had another dream:

*I've been murdered and crossed over to the first place you go after death. I'm not angry—even laughing as I talk directly to a friend who is still alive. I'm telling that friend that I want to know who murdered me, not so that I can take vengeance, but so that I can thank whoever for sending me to such a beautiful, peaceful place.*

I believe this dream came to show Leila that she had experienced a tremendous inner awakening. Thanking her murderer was merely symbolic. From a spiritual point of view, she attained soul growth through the cross that came from the stepfather. (This is by no means condoning her stepfather's behavior). By praying and choosing to forgive, the part of Leila that was unforgiving and hateful died and she "crossed over" to the heavenly state of consciousness within herself, and found peace. She's no longer angry, for she was born again in the Spirit. This brings laughter and joy to her inner being, for which her soul is thankful. 🙌

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