

about how Molly had been drying clothes, and she was bent over, and her breast got caught in this wringer, and it was a painful experience.

“Then they described a time when someone came in and he said, ‘Oh, she’s going to die. There’s black around her. She’s going to die.’ They said to young Bill, ‘Shut up! You can’t talk!’ Sure enough though, the woman did die. He would see all these things. He got some images of himself from past lives, one of which was like some sort of preacher. Then he would get all the kids together and he would start preaching to them. When he was preaching, he said that, because he thought he had long coattails on, he’d be hitting his hand against these coattails while he preached. And all the kids would listen to Bill spinning these new stories and preaching to them.

“One day Bill told his father, ‘You know, I’m not from here. I’m from Tibet.’ In the early part of the twentieth century in central Illinois, nobody knew what Tibet was. He said that he caused so much trouble in his family that his father really started to study, and became quite a deep occultist from having to study just to try and understand this child.

Ever since he was born, Bill Lawrence had been naturally gifted, though it wasn’t until the day he chose to fully embrace his capabilities and bring them under his control for the betterment of all beings that he began to grow spiritually as fully as he did. And even after that, only in discovering Theosophy, did Bill find a body of teachings that spoke to the forces that had been moving him his entire life. As Tim Boyd explains of his teacher, when Bill Lawrence first came to the Theosophical Society in Wheaton, he felt as if he had finally come home.

In a letter Bill Lawrence wrote to Tim shortly after their first meeting, he stated in the first few lines: “When the student is ready, the teacher is never found wanting.” Lawrence proceeded in his letter to invite a teen-aged Tim Boyd to come and stay at the house and learn what he had to teach him for a three month break from college. Boyd, a young man who had never even heard the word meditation before meeting Lawrence, immediately packed his bags. His mind was set.

The intention of the Old Man was to cram three years of spiritual training into three months, which was fine news at the time for the eager and astute Tim Boyd. What ended up happening is, however, even more profound.