

# **A Tiber Talks Vision Quest Tale**

**by  
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## **EPISODE ONE MEETING TIBER**



The young man's name is Travis. Although he happens to be a little more reflective than most other sixteen-year-olds, he is still very curious and tends to explore his surroundings a bit more deeply than most other fellows his age. And that is where we start this adventure.

Travis was visiting his grandparents during his summer break from school. They had a get-a-way cabin on a remote lake in the Catskill's, in upstate New York. To some boys his age, this might be considered a family requirement and a super boring way to spend some of their precious breaks from school. However, Travis was always happy when he was with his grandparents. They were very cool people and always fun to be around. They also understood that their grandson was someone who wanted to be alone sometimes and knew when to respect that. Like all grandparents, they felt that their grandson was exceptional, and perhaps in some ways, he was. But then again, so were his grandmother and grandfather outstanding adults, in Travis's opinion. They made themselves available or scarce, depending on where they sensed Travis wanted them to be at any given moment. This outlook is a rare but sensible attitude that more people should adopt with anyone. Still, it is essential when dealing with young people navigating their way through teen-hood's rocky and hectic terrain.

Travis decided that one eventful Saturday, he would walk the shoreline of the large lake where his grandparents' cabin was. The lakefront was sparsely populated, and the few buildings on the lake were all surrounded by very dense forests that supported Appalachian oak-pine, deciduous wetland, evergreen northern hardwood, evergreen wetland, spruce-fir, oak, and sugar maple forests.

While he meandered around the lake's edge, various elements of interest often lured him away from the water's edge, and he moved inland to investigate. Sometimes he found himself facing large boulders, and he had to move around them, and sometimes there was too many, and he had to climb over them, and then this time, he found himself at the base of a cliff. These elevations were the ultimate enticement for Travis because they represented a physical challenge, and promised the unknown when a climber reached the top. This particular bluff that he found himself at was especially tempting for some unknown reason, so he immediately started looking for the best route upwards. This cliff face had plenty of rocky outcroppings that he could use for grasping and foot supports. In addition, many sturdy forms of vegetation had rooted in the rocky face of the wall, and although Travis didn't depend on them for support, they came in handy to grab as he moved upward towards the top of this fifty-foot rock face.

When he reached the crest of this cliff, he found himself with a view of the lake and forest that took his breath away. It was beautiful beyond his expectations. Even though he saw the lake environs every day from the cabin, it seemed different from this new perspective. He doubted that he would want to leave this spot for a while. So he just settled in on a large flat rock and sat in a Buddha-style crossed-legged position. He began to breathe deeply and found himself inhaling the most wonderful scents of nature and realized that he hadn't taken full notice of them before now. He could differentiate between the wide assortment of green growing plants and grasses. There were also unique odors emanating from the rocks he was surrounded by, sitting on, and also many woody smells from both growing and dead woodland elements. Many birds darted around him on this ledge, and that only added to his enjoyment.

Travis thought to himself. How perfect all of this is. He had always loved nature but had never felt this much a part of it. As he relaxed and gave himself up to all of the sensations, he sensed something coming toward him from behind his back. With some trepidation, he slowly turned to see what it was. And what he saw, less than five feet behind him was a very large cougar. His first impulse was to jump up and run, but something in his mind cautioned him about doing that. Maybe it would be best to stare this cat down as it was obvious that he would not have the ability to outrun or outfight this large animal. Besides, there was something about this mountain lion's shimmering golden eyes.

As Travis considered his options, he kept looking at the cougar and stared into its eyes. He was surprised to see the large cat come closer and then settle down into that reclining position that all domestic cats are prone to do. This action didn't appear to be very threatening to Travis, so he began to relax more himself. But now what do you do, he thought? It probably wasn't a great idea to reach over and pet this predator, and Travis wasn't tempted to do that. So he continued to sit and watch this magnificent creature.

After a while, and when the mountain lion started to clean itself, Travis began to relate this scene to similar ones he had read about when American Indians went on a Vision Quest. They would enter into and stay within nature for a time and hope to bond with a spirit animal. That animal would then guide them throughout their lives after the event. Could this be the case here? Could this cougar be his spirit guide?

Having considered this idea, he decided to try a leap of fate. He reached over the short distance between him and the mountain lion and stroked the big cat's

neck. Travis was delighted, scared, and confident, all at the same time. Then he waited.

Shortly after Travis began the petting, the cougar started to fade under his hand, and Travis pulled away in fear. Soon the entire cat form shimmered and then turned into a cloudy mist. It was then immediately replaced with another golden and misty shape that soon became that of a human and quickly developed into what appeared to be a quite solid man. The man was standing and looking down at Travis. He was a very handsome mature man, old enough to be his father but healthier looking than anyone Travis had ever seen before. The man dressed in the same type of woody clothing that Travis wore and looked to be entirely appropriate for this forest environment.

This newly arrived man smiled at Travis and asked him if it was OK to join him. Travis, being speechless at this moment, nodded his acceptance of the man's request. The man then settled down next to Travis in the same cross-legged position and reached over to pat Travis on his arm, which made Travis jump a bit. The man said, "Sorry, but I figured because you gave my cougar form a nice petting, I could do the same thing for you. Did you mind?"

Travis, still being largely speechless and big-eyed, shook his head back and forth to indicate that he didn't mind. And he gave this man a large smile in return.

For several minutes, the two just sat in there in a cross-legged position in silence. Finally, Travis looked at his new companion and asked him. "Who are you? What are you? Are you a real man or a spirit? I was beginning to think that the cougar was a spirit guide, and now I find you sitting here next to me."

The man looked directly at Travis and addressed him by name. "Well, Travis, the mountain lion was indeed your spirit guide. So am I. Nothing changed but the shape of the form. However, for me to be an appropriate guide, I need to be able to talk to you, and the image of a cougar talking to you in English would be very distracting, don't you think?"

Travis replied, "Yes! But talking to a man who morphed out of a lion's form is also distracting. Who are you?"

"My name is Tiber, and we are not strangers to each other, Travis, except in this particular lifetime, my friend. And this event is not an unexpected one. We planned this to happen before you were born, and here we are."

After a moment's more of some serious thought, Travis came up with a question. "Did you mean that this was a planned event? Is our life all preplanned? I thought that I was personally responsible for what I was going to do and be. Except for circumstances happening outside our control, lives were to be determined by our desires and actions."

"Still true! Somewhat!" Tiber responded. "But things are always preplanned, but they don't always take place as we want, precisely because we all have free will and quite often throw away the best-laid plans by mice and men, as that old saying goes. At any rate, please take my word that this was a planned event, and here we are. You were always curious in other incarnations and still are very much inquisitive in this one. When the opportunity arose to make this connection, you took it. You could have been too lazy to make the trek around the lake. You could have decided not to scale the cliff, but you did the climb. You could have tried to run away from me when I appeared to you as a cougar. But you didn't, and here we are"

"OK! Mr. Tiber. But you are saying that I had the choice to do something that someone previously planned for in some other lifetime, or I could have decided not to do it if I chose. Right?"

"That's not quite accurate Travis. We did not make these plans in another lifetime, but between lifetimes or more appropriately between one incarnation and the next. Where we were is a place, I'll call the Transition Realm, where souls reside between lifetimes, and where they analyze their previous incarnations and plan for the next one. In that place, we all decide what we want to accomplish before choosing another life, often based upon what we did or did not do in the last one. We consider the right from the wrong and the good from the bad. We decide against the foolish and adhere to the well-considered during that period. It sounds simple enough, but it doesn't total out to be that clear. Oh, and those plans were not made by someone else, but by you and me. And although I appreciate the politeness, please don't call me Mr. Tiber. Simply Tiber will be fine."

"OK, Tiber, but why did we make a plan to meet here in this fantasy world in the first place? Are we accomplishing something important? Am I dreaming all this? What is this all about?"

"Travis, we do not exist in a fantasy world here. This one is just as valid as the one you live in day-to-day. They are both illusionary realms, but both of them

are also relevant to our experiences. The only true world of reality is the one that created us, and that is the Realm of Supreme Consciousness."

"Is Supreme Consciousness another word for God?"

"Travis, if you wish to think of the concept within the God word, and if its comfortable for you to accept that, then so be it. However, most people in this Realm usually think of God in a Paternal or Deity sense, which is an inadequate thought. Supreme Consciousness is far more than a Deity and is not gender-specific, so Supreme Consciousness should not be considered a Father or Mother figure, but that is a huge subject for later.

"OK, I understand that I think. But what about the reason that you and I are supposed to meet like we are doing now?"

"As I said, Travis, while you were in the Transition Realm, your Consciousness, which is always attempting to evolve through its learning experiences, determined that you needed a spiritual teacher while residing in the next earthly existence. I am that spiritual teacher, and this is our initial first meeting here in this, what I call the Obstructed Realm. You requested this help, and I will provide it. It's really quite simple."

"To you perhaps, but to me, it is very confusing Tiber. Why do I want or need, either way, a spiritual teacher during this lifetime? And can't I find someone here that can do that job?"

"You might find someone in this Obstructed Realm, but you also might not be convinced of the authenticity of what your contemporary teacher from this Realm teaches. Familiarity breeds contempt goes the saying. By meeting me, your very own personal spiritual teacher, in the manner that we did starts you off on the right track and faster. You have to admit that my cougar and I get you thinking in the spiritual mode faster than if I was talking to you from a college campus as a regular professor."

"Explain what the Obstructed Realm is Tiber. It's a strange term, at least to me."

"It's not strange, Travis. It is a reverse term popularized by a spiritual writer by the name of Stuart Edward White. He coined the term Unobstructed Universe to describe the spiritual world that his wife Betty regularly visited in spiritual form

and reported on before she passed on to reside in it. It means that the world you live in right now has many obstructions of both a physical and non-physical nature. The Obstructed Universe is that aspect of the whole universe that we know through our senses, including their mechanical extensions. Physical obstructions or blocks are easily understood. For example, if you find yourself in front of a wall in this universe, you know you have to either go around it, over it, under it or through it by breaking it down. Even if it is a non-physical element such as a thought, or an assumed law or rule, you should consider that you are obstructed by it in some way in that regard."

Tiber continued, "Whereas the Unobstructed Universe is that aspect of the entire universe ordinarily considered to be beyond the limitation of our sense perception and their extensions. In the Unobstructed Universe, you can go through that perceived wall because no obstructions exist. You are also not restricted by non-physical laws or rules and, therefore, can resolve their implications. The only irrefutable laws in the Unobstructed Universe are those dictated and given to us by Supreme Consciousness. There is no way around or through those laws."

Travis stayed quiet for a few minutes to think about what Tiber had said. All of what he said was new and yet somehow familiar at the same time. He decided to say so to Tiber. "Why does what you have told me seem new, but somehow still familiar to me?"

"Because I am waking you up, my friend. You had heard all of this before while you were in the Transition Realm, but it is important that you also know it here during this earthly life experience. The two portions of your Consciousness benefit from being connected with the same information. It is all about working in this Obstructed Universe with the same mindset as your spirit consciousness has. Having dual knowledge allows for the earthly experience to have maximum effect on the evolution of the soul. And that is what it is all about; It's anagogical results are important to your evolution."

"What the heck does anagogical mean?"

Tiber replied, "That is a method of spiritual interpretation of statements or events about the life between the incarnations and beyond lives of the Obstructed Universes. Or explained in another way, it's deriving from or about. Or perhaps its reflecting the moral or ideological striving of the unconscious. OK?"

"I guess Tiber. Thanks." Travis was somewhat in a state of mild shock from these events, and withdrawal from the reality of what is happening was beginning to set in. Travis was gradually accepting of these events. At least he was kinda accepting it.

Tiber was sympathetic about what Travis was going through and had expected it to happen. No matter how open-minded and accepting of new experiences a person might be, there are challenges to adopting these extremes as normal within their minds.

When Travis responded again, it was to say. "Why are there are two portions of Consciousness in our minds instead of just one. I would think it would have been much simpler if this Supreme Consciousness has given us just one Consciousness."

"Travis, there is only one Consciousness, but there are two portions to it. A lower and an upper portion or section, if you prefer. And those portions act separately at specific times. During the period that you are in right now that we are calling the Obstructed Universe, you operate under the lower consciousness control to believe in and operate under the various obstructions you will be experiencing. But once you die and transfer to a Transition Realm, you will operate under the primary or higher Consciousness to understand and operate under the non-physical aspects of that existence. Each existence requires appropriate perception capabilities, and the appropriate Consciousness controls those perception factors. The more that both of your Consciousness is in sync, the more seamless the evolution of the holder of the entire Consciousness will be."

Travis asked, "Does our combined consciousness have anything to do with the subconscious?"

"No," responded Tiber. "Almost every aspect of your brain is interconnected in various ways. The subconscious acts independently and generally below the level of awareness noticed by the conscious mind. You need not be concerned about that for the most part. I am primarily attempting to teach you within this session about the need to understand who and what you are. You are a permanent soul with a permanent consciousness that is in the process of evolving to become At-One with the Supreme Consciousness. You will be moving through many different levels of becoming At-One with many different aspects of creativity. It is a goal, and you have a purpose of establishing, cherishing, and nurturing those At-One relationships. The relationships sought are with everything created by the



Supreme Consciousness, such as other souls, animals, and living organisms that pretty much includes everything in the water, air, and ground.

“You saw the difference in your perception and the feeling you had towards everything you observed on your trek this morning to come to this place. Nothing was different but your viewpoint and perception towards it were, and that made the difference in your mind, and that made the difference in your attitude, and it will make the difference in your life.”

“Well then, Tiber, I think I am beginning to understand what you are trying to teach me. And I am extra glad that we met on this mountain top today. I understand what you are attempting to teach me and grateful that you think I am worthy of the effort. Are we to have more lessons after today?”

"We are to have many more lessons like this one Travis. There is much for you to both learn and relearn to send you onward through a very productive life here in this Realm. As you proceed, you the student, will become the teacher as well, and this will attract other souls to you for their benefit. It is the way things should be and can be if everyone can keep an open mind and caring attitude about life in this Obstructed Universe."

Travis looked at Tiber for the longest time and then said, "Thank you very much Tiber."

"You are most welcome, my friend," Tiber said. "Let's end this lesson for now and have you ponder on these things. You will see me again whenever you are ready, willing, and able to do that. And we will meet in similar ways as we did today to keep the spiritual aspect of our gathering unique, relevant, and fun as well."

And with that, Tiber began to shimmer, fade and then dissolve into a golden fog, leaving Travis sitting cross-legged on his rock ledge. Then as it all had started, Travis looked out over the grand, beautiful vista of the lake and forest. He felt that all was well with the world. He understood that he would never be quite the same from this point on, which would be for the betterment of his existence. He also knew that he would slip back into the routine of mentally giving priority to the Obstructed Universe aspects of his life over time. Unless he could constantly focus on the Spiritual aspects of his life, and stay connected to the natural world surrounding him.

He then unwrapped his legs, stood up, stretched, and walked off to start a descent down the cliff. He then strolled through the forest and the lakeside edge. This time, on the way back to the cabin, he took nothing for granted. He would absorb all the many wonders of this environment along the way.

He was happier than he had ever been before today, and looked forward to his next lesson and the possibility of meeting Tiber again.