

"ALIGNMENT"

This morning I was jolted awake by the repetition of the word, "Alignment." As any ordinary person would think, I instantly thought of my automobile but quickly realized that it had an alignment very recently. So why the repetition of such a mundane word? "Alignment of what?" I wondered. I tried to bring to mind anything that would require a vehicle service that we commonly call an alignment but nothing came to mind. I tried to put the word out of my consciousness in order to get started with my day but was only too soon reminded of it while driving to work just an hour later.

I really paid attention to the way my truck steered, responded around corners, handled when braking, and the usual road testing when I suspect something has gone awry . . . but nothing was wrong. It handled superbly!

"So what's the big deal with alignment?" I asked aloud. As usual, my co-worker just looked at me, knowing that I was once again on another one of my deep searches.

I managed to keep myself mentally occupied quite well until around 4:30 p.m. then 'that word' returned once again. Try as I may, I couldn't shake it from my thoughts, so, I gave up, sat down and began perusing pages upon pages of notes that I continually jot to myself during the course of my days and evenings. I found nothing, no hint of a word that could be substituted nor confused with alignment.

Days went by before that crazy word popped back into my thoughts so I figured that I'd better get serious with it and find out what the message was. The only way that I knew how was to create a visualization (after I went to bed) in which I would pop that word into it somewhere along the way. I saw myself driving along on a beautiful road, and of course the weather was calm, almost serene. It seemed like I was driving for hours when suddenly I was aware that I was swerving off the road and going toward a huge ditch off to my right. I managed to correct it but it was enough to jolt me out of the relaxing visualization.

A few minutes later I managed to quiet my pounding heart and I tried it again, only this time I decided to drive only a gorgeous stretch of road winding up through the mighty California redwoods. Somewhere along that drive I went to sleep. The next morning I couldn't seem to shake the fact that I was missing something. But what? Then I realized it must have been me. Was I the one who was having an alignment problem in my own life.

As I pursued that line of thought I wondered what was I aligning with if I was out of alignment and what should I have been in alignment with that I've drifted away from.

I'm the car, the vehicle, and I'm just cruising along through life and once in awhile I somehow swerve off the road, off my chosen path. There have been times that the little off-road jaunt was definitely a thrill or two, but there have also been those trips in which I felt like I'd truly gone astray. Somehow, I always manage to get back up on the road where I belong but I can't help but wonder about the purpose that the side trip served.

Now the real work begins. I need to take a good hard look at my current road trip to see if I am going astray again, or perhaps if it's time to take another detour. I know I have to make some sort of correction on my path or I would not have had the alignment warning.

I wonder, when you get mental images, warnings, advise, do you take heed? I certainly do. I'm not always so slow to respond, but when we have a lot going on in our daily lives often we don't respond as quickly as we should.

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