

## Things Happen for a Reason

In the book, *A Child of Eternity*, a mother and her autistic daughter, Adri, wrote about their experience with autism. At age four Adri was diagnosed as a “low-functioning” autistic person and unable to speak. When she was nine years old she began to learn a method of “facilitated communication” where she could type words and sentences on a small computer. Adri soon typed a wisdom and knowledge far beyond her condition, age, and any conventional way to explain her way of knowing. Within months she typed that she chose to be autistic, and explained how she created this condition for herself within the womb before she was born. She claimed to have a “network of spirit guides” with whom she was in regular communication. She was told that her life purpose was “to show the world the will of God,” to “open people’s hearts for God,” and to help her mother, more specifically, to develop an ability to heal people through touch or laying on of hands.

Adri said that one of the reasons that she chose to be autistic was to demonstrate that one’s spirit or mind is separate from the body. Her mother, Kristi, chose as her life purpose to learn about patience. Adri chose to take on her autistic condition, additionally, to learn humility and to help her mother learn patience.

Let me ask you two very elementary questions: “If you gave birth, and the child were autistic, would you think that this were good or bad? Would you have chosen to have an autistic child?” Most people surely would not choose their child to be autistic.

Yet when we read Kristi’s and Adri’s story, autism would appear to be a spiritual blessing in disguise. They believe that autism afforded them the unique opportunity to develop qualities such as patience and humility. In this process they realized a much greater spiritual perspective personally, and were able to demonstrate this so that others might similarly learn to open their hearts to God. They have also been able to help thousands of other parents and autistic children to develop richer and more fulfilling lives. They are convinced, and communicate eloquently, “Things happen for a reason.”

Excerpt from *Doctor’s Orders: Go Fishing* by Dean Shrock, Ph.D.