



Antagonistic Mentoring

Sample: Lori Wallace

Antagonistic Mentors	Open to the Guidance
<p>My young son teaches me a lesson. My Son is my antagonistic mentor every day. When he was 7, he called me a bad mother one day for having given him a Disney movie to watch that I had no idea featured a “poacher” character with a gun. He’s very sensitive and he freaked out.</p> <p>Feelings: shame; shock; worry; defensiveness; anger</p>	<p>The guidance I received was the importance of attached and attentive parenting. I had given my son a g-rated movie to watch on a drive, but had not previewed it. Not the worst thing a mother could do, but the lesson was deeper than that. I had to bear the heat of his accusation. It was hard. I was hurt. But I stayed open to him, endured the heat and ultimately received the message. I am a better mother for it.</p>
<p>Sudden change in income. My recruiting business suddenly stopped making money. I felt like a complete “loser”. We were only months away from being completely out of money. I am the sole provider for my family.</p> <p>Feelings: fear; shame; overwhelm</p>	<p>The guidance I received lead to sudden move out of Northern California to a lower cost of living area. The painful stall in business over 6-months forced the move, but as a result I have been given the space to create Career Ecology. The move has been very healthy for me, my son and husband too. We were not prepared to move without this kick. We’re in San Diego now, where we feel we belong.</p>

<p>A CEO candidate. A powerful candidate I was serving within a CEO search turned on me and threatened to sue me. He was a bully and emotionally violent.</p> <p>Feelings: fear; self doubt; confusion, paranoia</p>	<p>The guidance I received was to act more at arms length with CEO level candidates, given their power and capacity to dominate. This mentor helped prepare me for the future.</p>
<p>My health. After my son was born, I fell in to total autoimmune collapse. I was dying.</p> <p>Feelings: existential fear of dying, of not being able to care for my son, of not living to see him grow up</p>	<p>The guidance I received was around the importance of recognizing personal agency. Prior to this illness, I delegated 100% of my health to doctors and never gave it a second thought. The collapse of my health brought me to research my symptoms then take charge of my own body. That was a powerful cracking open in my life leading to personal empowerment.</p>