

Guns and Rebirth

— Case 74 —

When Nathan Albin¹ was 18 months old he began making statements such as: “I am not small, I am big.” and “I am fearless and strong.”

Which might not be unusual for a very young boy, but then he would say:

- “I have a lot of weapons.”
- “I carry two pistols. I carry four hand-grenades.”
- “Don’t be scared by the hand-grenades. I know how to handle them.”

Then he said his name was actually Frank, that he lived in Quincy, not Bretton, and that he had young children whom he wanted to visit. Over the next few years, Nathan made numerous statements about his life and death as Frank. (See bulleted items on page 3.)

Although she accepted the possibility that Nathan had lived a previous life, his mother, Nancy, did not encourage him to speak of it because of a similar experience with one of his older sisters. “Life is not easy for such children,” she noted. Nathan’s father, Samuel, listened to the boy’s claims but also tried to resist his persistent pleas to take him to his “home,” even when Nathan threatened to walk there by himself. But, after 4 years of nagging, his parents gave in and the family drove to the village of Quincy, about 10½ miles away. Nathan had never been there before, Samuel had passed through a few times but knew no one in the town.

When they arrived at the intersection in Quincy where six roads converge, Nathan pointed out the proper turns to reach Frank’s house. As they approached the location, they were forced to stop because a man was washing his car and the runoff water made the steep road too slippery to navigate safely. While the boy and his father went forward on foot, his sisters decided to talk with the car washer. That man turned out to be Carl Carter, son of Frank Carter — a man who perfectly fit the

description given by the young Nathan, a man who had died many years previously.

Carl called to his mother, Nadia Carter, who came from working in her garden just as Nathan and his father walked back down the hill. After introductions were made, Nadia tested Nathan by asking, “Who built the foundation of this gate at the entrance of this house?” Nathan correctly said that it was a man named Farkas. At that, the Albins were invited into the Carter’s home, whereupon Nathan went to a cupboard, pointed to the right of it and said, “Here I used to put my pistols.” Then he indicated the left and said, “Here I used to put the other weapons, where are they?” Nadia admitted that the weapons had been kept there but they had been stolen. Then Nadia asked the boy other questions and he answered each correctly.

Nathan then reminded his (Frank’s) wife of several incidents in their life together. He said, “Do you remember when we were going in the car and the car stopped and twice the soldiers fixed it for us?” She did recall a trip in which soldiers had twice changed their car’s battery. “One night I came home drunk,” Nathan continued, “and you locked the door and I slept outside the house on a rocking sofa.” This she also admitted to.

Perhaps one of the most evidential exchanges between Nadia and Nathan concerned one of “their” daughters. She asked if he remembered how their 4-year-old Felicia got seriously sick. Nathan answered: “She was poisoned from my medication and I took her to the hospital.” Felicia had, in fact, found some pills in her father’s jacket pocket and swallowed them.

Over time Nadia and all five of her (and Frank’s) children came to accept that Nathan was the reincarnation of Frank. Not only accept, but the two families visit one another occasionally and have developed “an affectionate relationship.”

Shortly after their initial meeting with Mrs. Carter and Carl, the Albin family visited Frank’s

¹ All names in this discussion have been changed for reasons explained later.

younger brother Austin Carter at his home in Kendall. Described as a “senior employee of an airline,” Austin responded to Nathan’s claim of fraternity by asking for proof. Nathan replied that he once gave his brother a handgun as a gift. “What kind of gun?” “I gave you a Checki 16,” the boy replied.² “Then I hugged him,” states Austin, for he was “100-percent sure” that Nathan was his brother reborn. Apparently this certainty eroded somewhat over time for, at a later date, Austin retested Nathan by showing him a different gun and asking if it were the weapon that Frank had given him. Nathan correctly denied it.

A Note on Nomenclature

As stated in the initial footnote, the names of the people and locations described in the text of this case have been changed. The reason for this is rather unusual; it wasn’t done to protect anyone’s privacy, but to facilitate comprehension of the facts of the case. The events described took place in Lebanon. The research paper from which this case was derived used, quite naturally, the actual names³ of the people and villages involved. The strangeness of these terms to my English-educated ear and eye greatly increased the effort required to sort out who did what to whom and where. On the assumption that others might face the same resistance to absorbing the facts — and thinking that this difficulty might explain why the case has not been more widely recognized — I took the step of “translating” the actual names into those more easily recognized and absorbed by western readers. I certainly do not mean to denigrate the an-

cient and honorable languages spoken by any citizen of Lebanon or any other country. I beg understanding of my attempts to be as effective as possible in communicating with my most likely audience.

Reliability of the Source

While conducting research on claims of past lives, E. Haraldsson, Ph.D.,⁴ and his interpreter were told by another family of Nathan’s story, which had not yet received any public attention. Judging it a worthwhile case, Haraldsson began a most thorough investigation. Overall, his team visited the Albin’s home seven times and the Carter family two times between May 2000 and March 2001. With a few exceptions the interviews were conducted in the subject’s native language and notes from the interviews were later checked with the interviewees. Each of the nine witnesses to Nathan’s original claims (mother, father, and seven siblings) was interviewed individually and asked to only report what he or she had personally heard or seen.

The researchers’ report states: “All the major witnesses were interviewed on more than one occasion several months apart. Their testimony was on the whole consistent over time ... The witnesses were cooperative. Our impression was that they were honest and open about their observations and did not try to embellish the case.” [*JSE*, p. 365] In addition, they point out that the Carter family was significantly poorer than the Albins, so there was no financial or status motivation for the latter associating themselves with the former. Also note-

² The Checki 16 (manufactured in what was then known as Czechoslovakia) was considered a rare and precious item.

³ The actual names of people and places involved in this case are: Nathan Albin = Nazih Al-Danaf, Samuel = Sabir, Nancy = Naaim, Sabrina = Sabrine, Frank = Fuad, Carl Carter = Kamal Khaddage, Nadia = Najdiyah, Farkas = Faraj, Austin = Adeeb, Felicia = Fairuz, Bretton = Baalchmay (about 15 miles east of Beirut, Lebanon), Quincy = Qaberchamoun, Kendall = Kfermatta. The Al-Danaf family follows the Druze religion, a spin-off of Islam that accepts the reality of reincarnation.

⁴ Author of many books and papers on psi phenomena, Dr. Erlunder Haraldsson is a psychologist with the University of Iceland, Reykjavik.

worthy in this regard is the fact that the researchers had to search out the Albin family, who had made no effort to seek publicity and had not encouraged their young son to speak of a past life.

Nathan's Knowledge of Frank's Life — Confirmed —

Stated Prior to Meeting Frank's Family

- His name was Frank.
- Directions to reach the house Frank was living in when he died.
- Frank had lived in a villa with two stories and trees around it.
- He had a wife and young children.
- He had a friend who was a mute.
- He had owned a red car.
- He carried guns and hand grenades. [Note: Frank Carter was a manager of a religious center and part-time bodyguard for a religious leader.]
- He was killed by gunfire.

Revealed During Meetings with Frank's Wife and Son

- The name of the person who had built the foundation of the gate in front of Frank's house.
- In what cupboard Frank had kept his weapons.
- Details of an accident in which Frank's wife had fallen and dislocated her shoulder; including the facts that she had slipped on a piece of plastic while picking pine cones, that her father-in-law was present at the time, and that Frank had taken her to the doctor after he arrived home from work.
- How Frank's daughter had swallowed some of his medication and become seriously ill.
- How the family's car was started twice by Israeli soldiers while traveling from Beirut.
- How he came home drunk one night and had to sleep on the front porch.

- There was a barrel in the garden they used as a target when Frank was teaching his wife to shoot.

Revealed During Meetings with Frank's Brother, Austin

- Austin was Frank's brother.
- Frank had given his brother a gift of a Checki-16 handgun.
- The location of Frank's boyhood home.
- The location of Frank's home with his first wife.
- Frank had built a wooden ladder that was still in this original house.
- The woman currently living in this house was Frank's first wife.
- The identity of each of three men in a photograph: Frank and his two brothers.
- Frank's father had been alive when Frank was killed. (But, Nathan did not know that Frank's father had since died.)

Source:

Haraldsson, Erlendur and Majd Abu-Izzeddin, "Development of Certainty About the Correct Deceased Person in a Case of the Reincarnation Type in Lebanon: The Case of Nazih Al-Danaf," *Journal of Scientific Exploration*, Vol. 16, No. 3, pp. 363–380, 2002.



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