

Preserving Memories: One Tree At A Time

THE POWERFUL SPIRIT OF THE WILLOW

My great-grandmother told me wonderfully fascinating stories as a young child. They usually had something to do with nature. Perhaps my most favorite was about the legend of a powerful tree. A tree that not only I grew up with, but so did she many generations before me. She said her grandmother told this same story to her. As I got older, many of the things I remembered began to influence my life. It was hard to believe at first, but the more I opened myself up to the possibilities, the more I felt there was a strong spirit there in the earth, just like she said.

One day, “Grammie”, as I called her, and I were having our usual picnic under this great, big Willow tree; the same spot where we always ate, every Sunday. As I sat on the soft, quilt blanket munching on my cheese sandwich and apple, she explained the Willow has always been known as a tree of dreaming and enchantment. It came from an old Celtic legend, she said, handed down from poets through psychics and interpretive people who were later branded by those who thought it witchcraft. But she said that in the Willow tree lies the moon’s energy, which puts us in touch with our deepest feelings and emotions. “Because we are sitting under a Willow”, she said, ...“here, you will discover your dreams.” When I was about 10 years old, long before I was ever married, Grammie told me, “...the Willow will someday help you understand your own daughter.” At the time, I honestly thought Grammie was a little ‘touched in the head’ considering she was quite old, but I loved her all the more for sharing her charming stories.

Many years after Grammie passed away, I was out jogging one day and literally ran into another jogger, trying to avoid two kids on bicycles who were zig-zagging across the narrow path. Little did I know at the time, this man would turn out to be my future husband. After we brushed ourselves off and said our mutual apologies, he looked at me and asked, “Do you believe that accidents are really not accidents at all, but nature’s way of connecting spiritual energy?” At first, I thought to myself, “yeah, there’s a good pickup line.” But then, I remembered something Grammie used to say and to tell you the truth, he was awfully good looking, so why not take a chance and see where this might lead.

...to be continued.