

*Streams in the Willow*  
*The Story of One Family's Transformation*  
*from Original Sin*

By Marilyn Hughes  
Illustrations by Mary Hughes

*The Out-of-Body Travel Foundation!*  
**<https://outofbodytravel.org>**



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Having worked primarily in radio broadcasting, Marilyn Hughes spent several years as a news reporter, producer and anchor before deciding to stay at home with her three children. She's experienced, researched, written, and taught about out-of-body travel since 1987.

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## Chapter One

*There was a time when a great darkness came upon the land. Families were torn apart by generations of hard-heartedness, anger, rage, control, stubbornness and abuse. The Streams in the Willow were dark and narrow, the generations of the family intertwined like the dark sap and the mangled roots of a tree.*



The hearts of families and children bled with the pain of finding themselves entangled in a tree they could not understand.

When Jesus had told them to 'Follow Me' He had said they should do so because He was 'Meek and Humble of Heart.' But the hearts of humankind were prideful and selfish.



*This great tragedy made the  
standard of the triumphant  
cross to shine in the  
heavens. It made the tools of  
Our Lord's sacrifice  
awaken in the sky above the  
entangled willows. A fire  
burned in the hearts of  
men. It was not a fire of  
love, but of anger and rage.  
The Blood of Christ fell  
upon this fire below.*



**Chapter Two**

*As the heavens descended in  
an uproar over the angry  
words and actions of  
families, the Sacred Heart  
of Jesus descended towards  
the waters of the earth,  
bringing with it the all-  
seeing eye of knowledge and  
wisdom. "Because something  
has always been done, must  
it continue to be so today?"  
Humankind asked.*



*As Jesus reached His wounded hand down from heaven to earth, he realized that the planet was completely enmeshed in the never-ending branches and roots of this willow. The Streams in the Willow were holding fast to old ways of thinking and not rising forth to meet the challenge of new thought.*



*The heart of Jesus began to shine with resplendent glory and bleed for the wounded hearts of humankind. The seeds of Original Sin had moved through families like a Stream in a Willow, few giving even the remotest thought to the angry ways they had imitated from the past or considering more peaceful ways for the future.*



*And so it came to pass that  
Jesus sent his angels in to  
fight for the hearts of  
humankind. And in a  
resplendant show of glory,  
the three Cardinal Virtues  
- Faith, Hope and Love -  
came in the form of three  
swords and defeated the  
serpents of unbelief, despair  
and hatred in the hearts of  
humankind.*

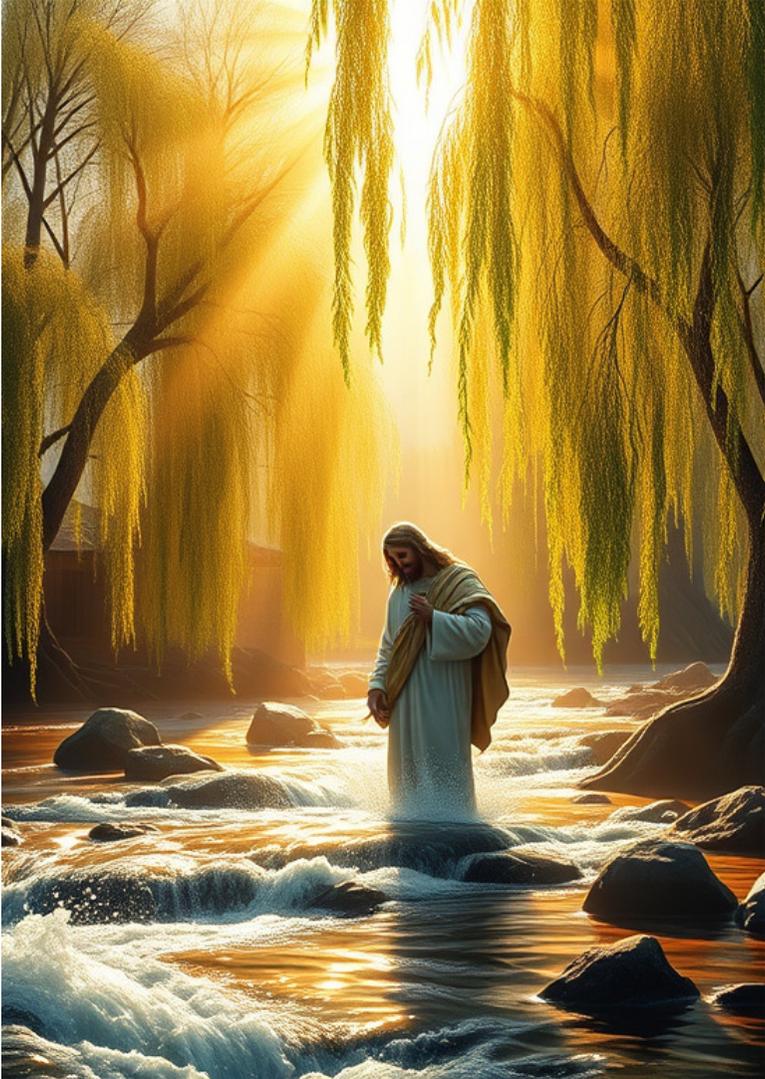


Suddenly, humanity felt like it had awoken from a deep sleep. They realized that in their anger and rage towards their own families and one another, they had forgotten the profound nature of the family covenant represented in the Eucharist of the Lord: "To love one another, as I have loved you."



### Chapter Three

*With the renewal of that Eucharistic Love for one another, Jesus reached down to the earth into the fire and pulled humankind out of the mire of selfishness. The Streams in the Willow didn't have to remain dark. They could become loving ancestral threads of honor between generations.*



*The souls of humankind  
began to soar towards the  
heavens in their newfound  
freedom. Realizing that the  
anger and rage of the past  
could be replaced with  
patience and love in the  
future profoundly lightened  
their souls.*



*As the blood of Jesus  
Christ continued to fall  
from His heart to theirs,  
they understood that  
although generations of  
humankind had done many  
things, it was in the power of  
every generation to evaluate  
the things of the past and  
bring forth those which were  
fruitful, but cease those  
which were not.*



*As the streams of cleansing water released from the willow, humankind saw a beautiful diamond ring appear above a resplendent red rose. The diamond had been worn by many generations of mothers and wives in this family of humankind. And each of those generations had the same purpose.*



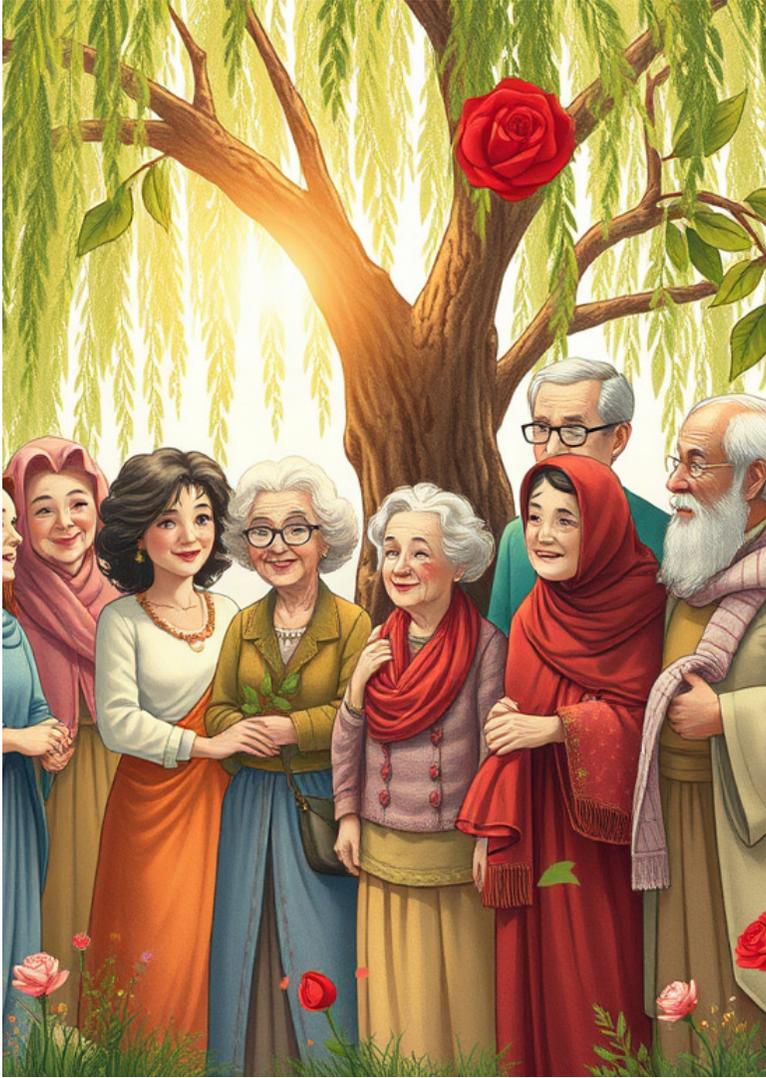
*As humankind saw the  
ring, she grasped for it  
because she knew her future  
lay in her understanding of  
the past. The Lord placed  
the ring upon her hand as  
the ring took its power from  
the Cross. Humankind's  
covenant was not just with  
the present, but with  
everyone who had come  
before.*



**Chapter Four**

*Uniting with mothers,  
grandmothers, great-  
grandmothers, fathers,  
grandfathers and great-  
grandfathers,  
understanding came . . .*

*The Streams in the  
Willow poured forth a  
flood of purification.  
Leaves of understanding  
wisped through the air. The  
red rose lit up the sky.*



*Carrying the mantle of the  
past firmly with the present  
made it possible for the  
Streams within the  
Willow to become fresh and  
new. Understanding the  
ancestral line enlivened the  
possibilities for the future  
and it freed the soul of  
those who chose to render it  
proper homage.*



*For the lines of humanity  
bore the same purpose, to  
love, honor and cherish with  
greater clarity and power  
with each succeeding  
generation. And to do so  
honored those who came  
before by rendering them  
proper respect for their place  
in the line of understanding  
but allowing it to grow and  
evolve.*



*This allowed for the future to grow into a greater, more patient love. When asked what Jesus wished for the future when He remained no longer with humankind in the flesh, he said "That you may be One."*





**Chapter Five**

*This allegory is based on a true story. The diamond ring was given to me by my husband's grandmother who received it from her husband's grandmother. Five generations have worn this ring. There is an actual red rose which houses this treasure in our home. It became a symbol of unity when times were difficult.*



**The Real Antique Rose Which Opens to Behold a Secret Compartment which Holds the Diamond Ring Passed Down through Five Generations of Women**

One night, I had a dream  
about the diamond ring.  
Great Grandma told to  
write this book. The  
Streams in the Willow are  
the never-ending ties we have  
to one another in this world  
and beyond the grave.  
Despite whatever errors may  
lie in our pasts, we remain  
inexorably linked to those  
who have come before us.



*Despite our circumstances,  
they love us and wish to help  
us to find the way on our  
journey, even if in order to  
find that way, we have to  
acknowledge something true  
from our pasts or theirs for  
which they may no longer  
embrace. They don't want to  
be right beyond the grave,  
they want redemption of  
their future, their family.*



Whatever mistakes we  
make, they stand by  
lovingly to help us to  
understand the Streams in  
the Willow of the profound  
ancestral line that brought  
us into being. And by  
understanding, they give us  
the freedom to also  
transcend and choose  
something higher. They do  
this with love.



*They are happy to see us succeed where they may have not, to rise above what was not given them to see in their frame of reference and time on earth. They wish for those dark, stagnant branches in the willow of our family trees to be re-enlivened with streams of living water. They stand ready for us to go forth.*



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Author, Marilyn Hughes, Photo by Harvey Kushner

*Streams in the Willow* is an allegorical rendering of the inexorable link between this world and the next, between this generation and those who have gone before. Dramatized by an actual diamond ring that has been passed down five generations in the author's family, the stains of Original Sin are presented as obstacles each of us faces alongside those who came before us. The path to overcoming the Original Sin in each of our individual families is first to acknowledge it. Children will delight in learning to honor their family in new ways which promote positive growth and learning to accept help and grace from Jesus Christ when times get tough.

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