

Streams in the Willow

*The Story of One Family's Transformation
from Original Sin*

By Marilynn Hughes

The Out-of-Body Travel Foundation!

www.outofbodytravel.org



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Having worked primarily in radio broadcasting, Marilynn 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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Streams in the Willow

The Story of One Family's Transformation from Original Sin

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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.

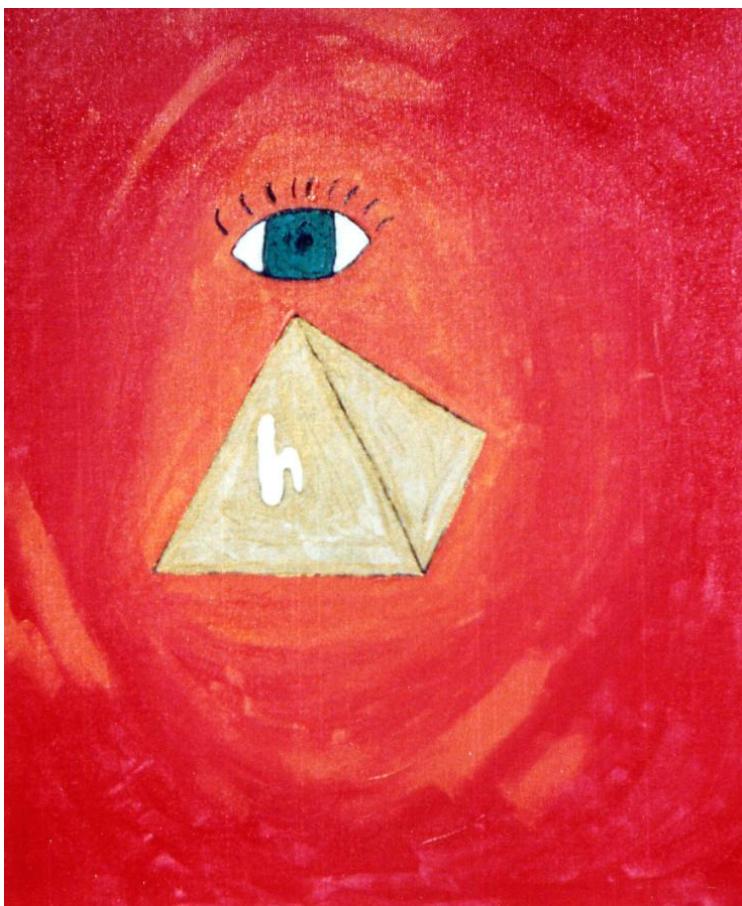
When Jesus had told
them to 'Follow Me' He
had said they should do so
because He was 'Meek and
Humble of Heart.' But the
hearts of humankind were
prideful and selfish.



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.



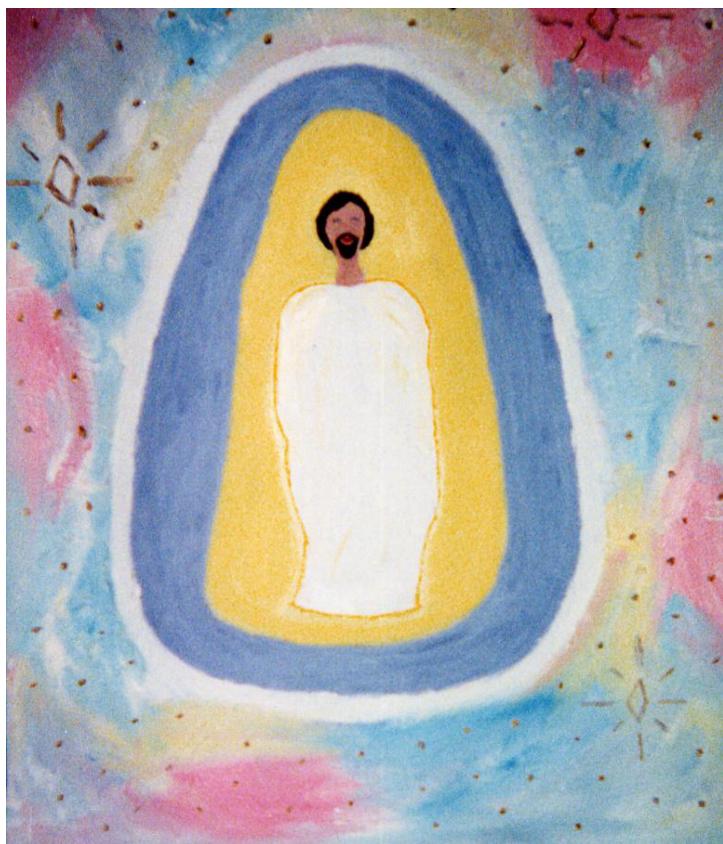
As the heavens descended in an uproar over the angry words and actions of families, the Sacred Heart of Jesus descended towards the waters of the earth, bringing with it the all-seeing eye of knowledge and wisdom. "Because something has always been done, must it continue to be so today?" Humankind asked.



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.



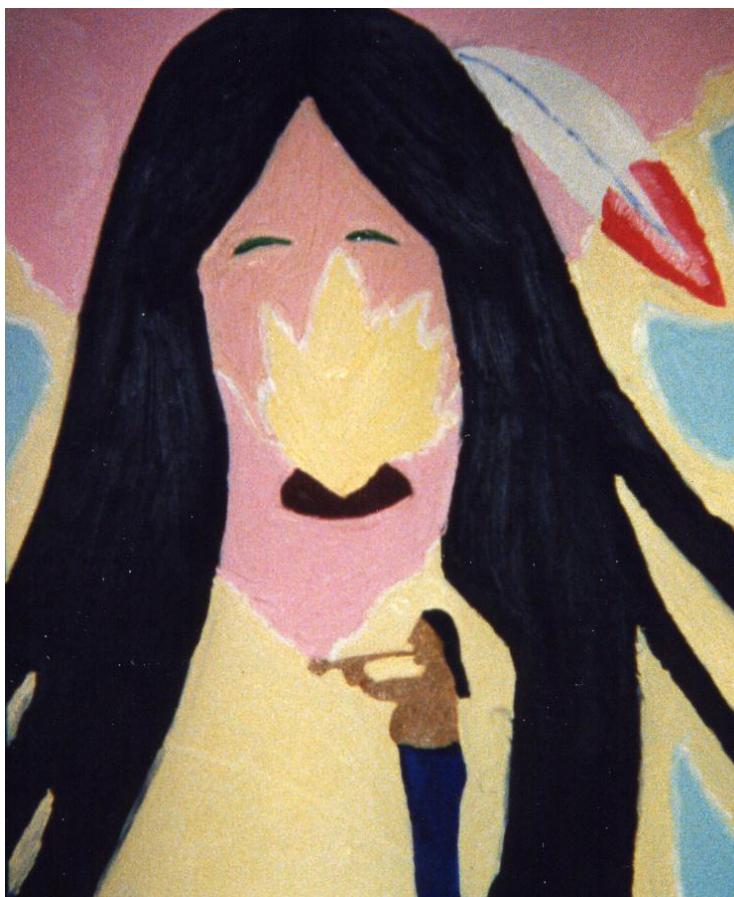
And so it came to pass that Jesus sent his angels in to fight for the hearts of humankind. And in a resplendant show of glory, the three Cardinal Virtues - Faith, Hope and Love - came in the form of three swords and defeated the serpents of unbelief, despair and hatred in the hearts of humankind.



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.”



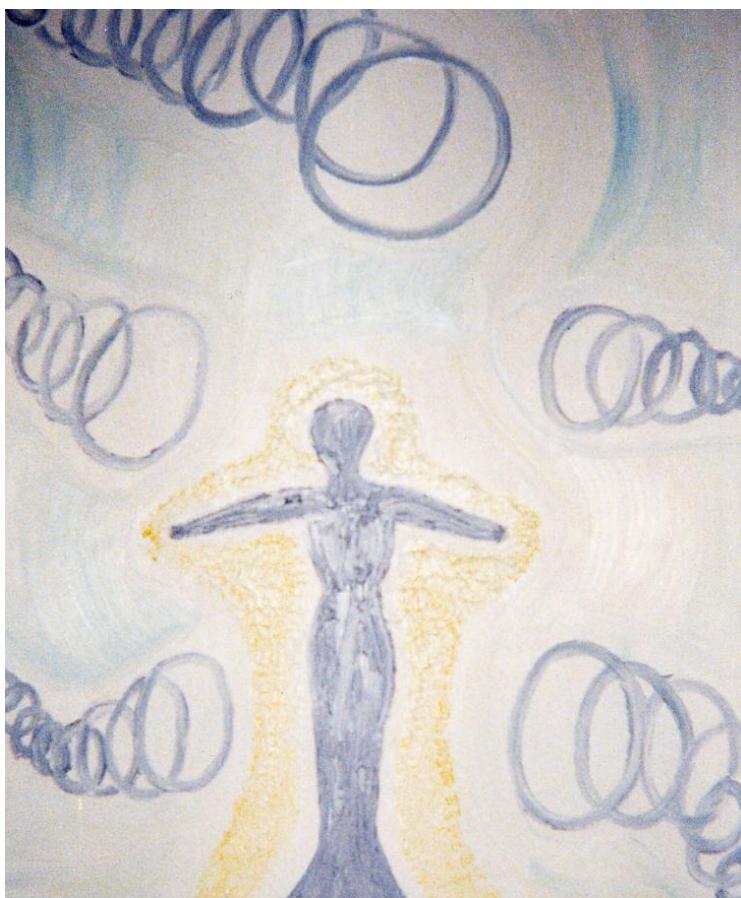
With the renewal of that Eucharistic Love for one another, Jesus reached down to the earth into the fire and pulled humankind out of the mire of selfishness. The Streams in the Willow didn't have to remain dark. They could become loving ancestral threads of honor between generations.



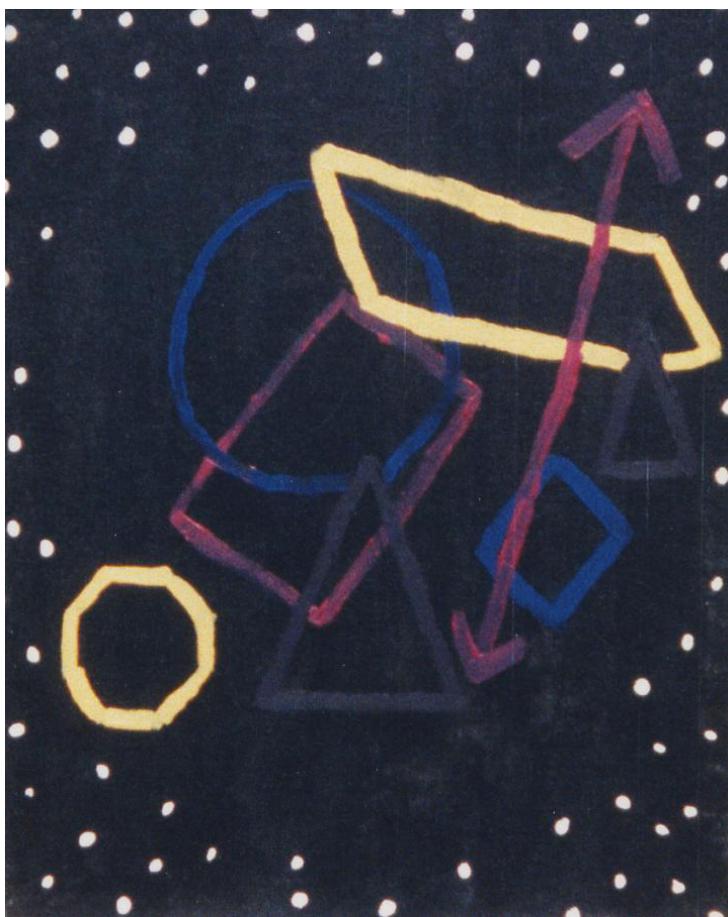
The souls of humankind began to soar towards the heavens in their newfound freedom. Realizing that the anger and rage of the past could be replaced with patience and love in the future profoundly lightened their souls.



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.



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.



The Antique Rose Before the Statue of the Blessed Virgin

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.



Closeup of the Antique Rose

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.”





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

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.



Closeup of the Open Antique Rose with the Diamond Ring Inside

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.



GENEALOGICAL TREE OF THE QUEEN AND HER DESCENDANTS

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, Marilynn 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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