

Streams in the Willow
The Story of One Family's Transformation
from Original Sin
By Marilyn 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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*Issue Twenty: Acvaghosha - Forgotten Buddhist Mystic of the
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*Issue Twenty One: Bishop Shelemon of Armenia - Forgotten
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For more information!

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.

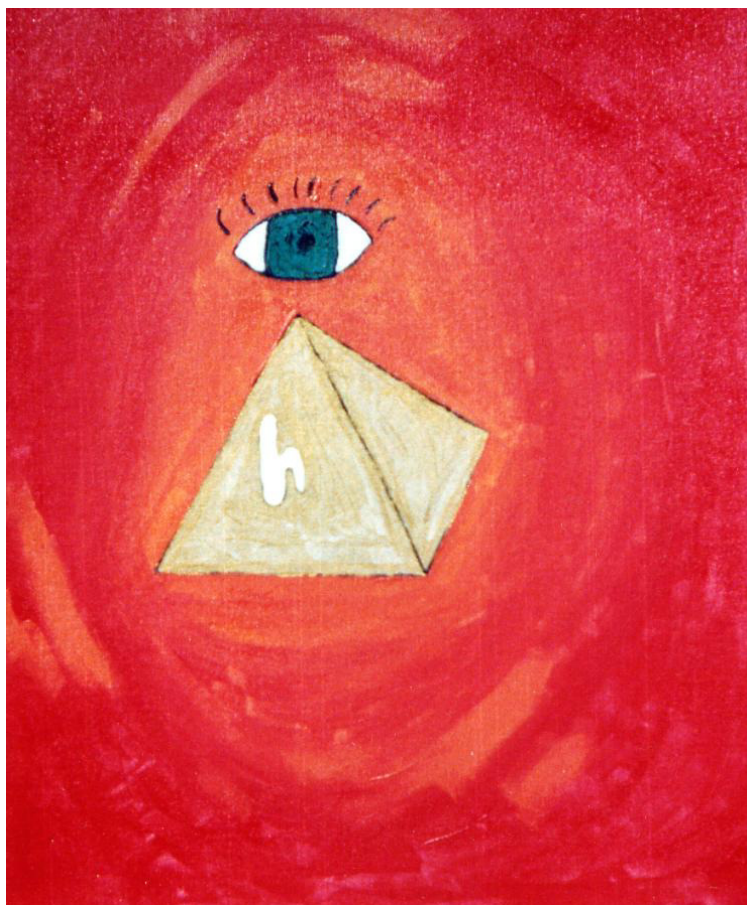
When Jesus had told them to 'Follow Me' He had said they should do so because He was 'Meek and Humble of Heart.' But the hearts of humankind were prideful and selfish.



*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.*



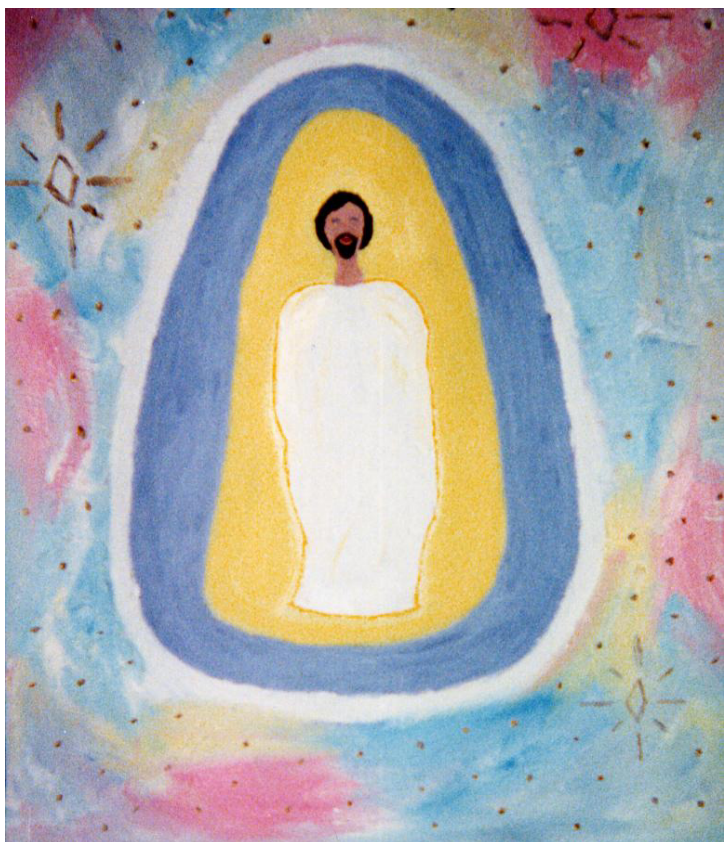
*As the heavens descended in
an uproar over the angry
words and actions of
families, the Sacred Heart
of Jesus descended towards
the waters of the earth,
bringing with it the all-
seeing eye of knowledge and
wisdom. "Because something
has always been done, must
it continue to be so today?"
Humankind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



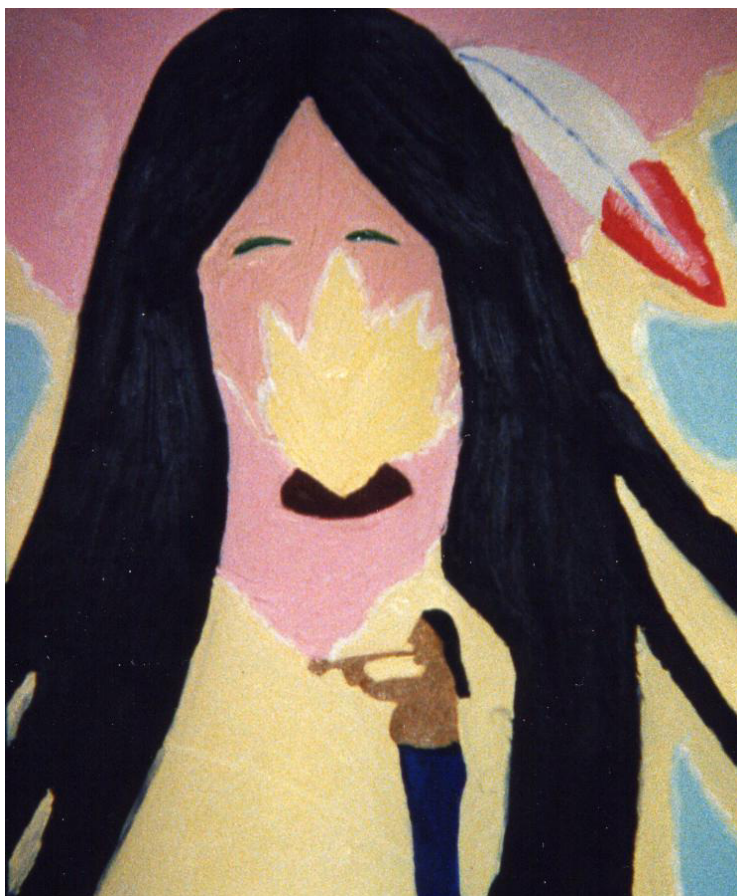
*And so it came to pass that
Jesus sent his angels in to
fight for the hearts of
humankind. And in a
resplendant show of glory,
the three Cardinal Virtues
- Faith, Hope and Love -
came in the form of three
swords and defeated the
serpents of unbelief, despair
and hatred in the hearts of
humankind.*



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."



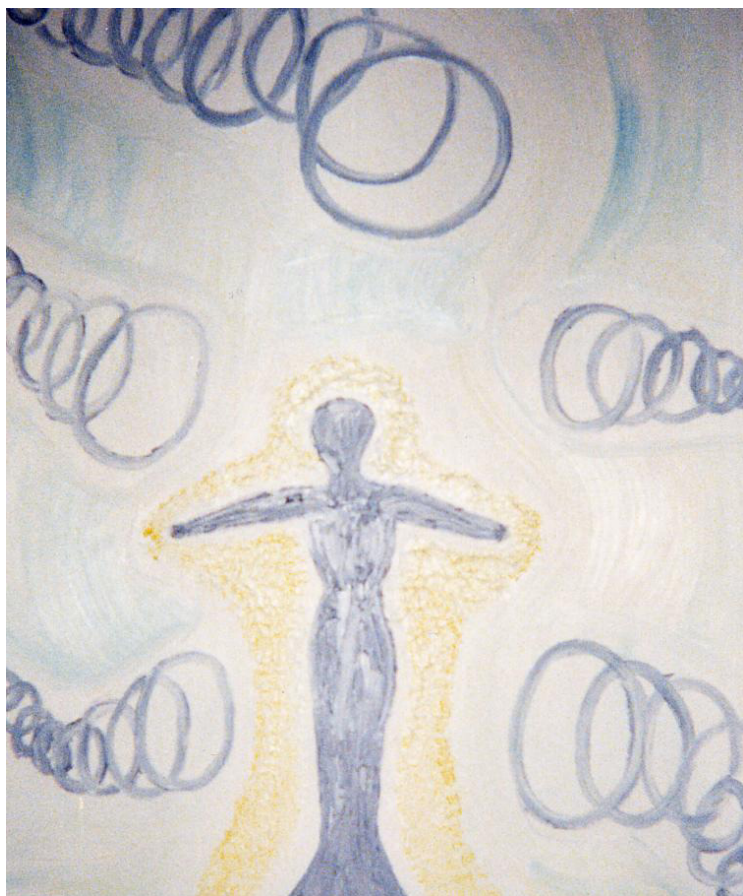
*With the renewal of that
Eucharistic Love for one
another, Jesus reached
down to the earth into the
fire and pulled humankind
out of the mire of
selfishness. The Streams
in the Willow didn't have
to remain dark. They could
become loving ancestral
threads of honor between
generations.*



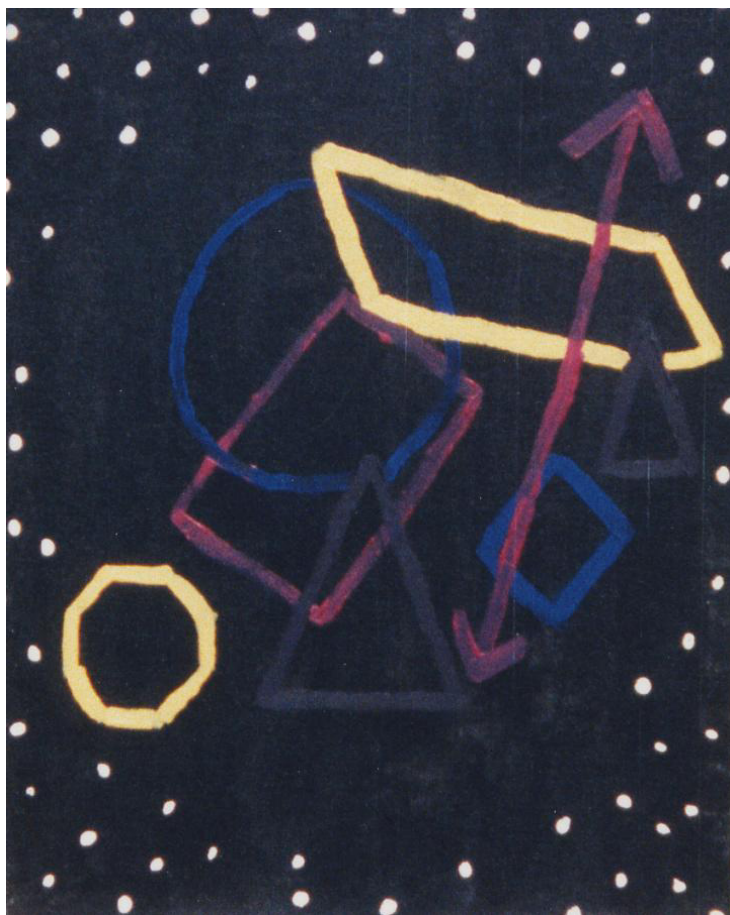
*The souls of humankind
began to soar towards the
heavens in their newfound
freedom. Realizing that the
anger and rage of the past
could be replaced with
patience and love in the
future profoundly lightened
their souls.*



*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 DECENDANTS

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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