

**“I come to you in a good and humble way and in a sacred manner to tell a magical tale that once happened in a beautiful forest not far from here. This was not just an ordinary forest with regular trees. This was a very very special forest where something truly incredible happened one sunny day. On this warm sunny day, without a cloud in the sky the Creator chose to give the trees some very wondrous gifts. They were the gifts of being able speak to each other, to be able to understand things and to be able to see into the future. This was a forest where the humans used the trees to make numerous things out of after they chopped them down and hauled them off to the lumber mill. They say it happened in an instant. One minute the trees were just standing there doing what trees do, and in the next minute they all began to talk at once to each other , having an understanding of all things and seeing visions of things yet to come. The very first thing they understood and talked about was their important relationship and purpose to man, animal and mother earth. They saw that they were all dependant on each other for each others` survival. They became aware that they all have the very same life force that`s in the Creator and that we are all connected and related as one family and our main function is to love and help one another. The many trees of this extraordinary forest were all smiling and filled with joy from this knowledge. They understood how mother earth nurtures them with her soil, how grandfather sun lets them grow with his light, how brother rain gives them plenty to drink to be strong and how sister wind moves their branches and leaves for exercise and spreads their seeds to multiply. The happy trees now understood how they themselves made oxygen for man that allows us to breathe the very air that gives us life and in turn what man breathes out is what the trees breathe in to help give them life. They were delighted to know of the many homes they provided for the birds that sang their sweet melodies in their branches. But what made them most excited was the discovery of the things that they were to become in the future that would help be of service to man and this my friend is what this magical tale is really all about. As they all began to speak of the many things of which they would become, that would help man. There was this joy about them that made this glow around each one, coming from the very light of their spirits. They now understood that their very spirits would live on in the things they**

became that would be of service to man and this is what filled them with joy and gave them this glow. The first one to share with the others of what he would become spoke of becoming a large wonderful sailboat that would take this family all over the world to many beautiful distant lands. The next one spoke with such excitement of knowing he would live on after, that he could hardly contain himself. He spoke to the others about becoming part of this giant rollercoaster. He said that the children and the grownups would wait in long lines if they had to just to ride him and his many twist and turns for the thrill and excitement it gave them. The tree that was right beside him shared with all the other trees, with this big smile on his face that there were many beautiful Native American flutes living inside him right now. And that someday many different people would play this soothing, soulful, music that would help calm humans and bring them peace of mind and take them to a place of tranquility. Another tree spoke of becoming an inipi, a sweat lodge that would be a place of purification and cleansing for the people that would help them on their spiritual path. One tree whispered of becoming many different books of information and knowledge in this big library. Everyone around him whispered back to him and asked him. Why are you whispering? So he whispered, because everyone in this library whispers to be respectful of others who are trying to read and concentrate on the book they are reading. The next tree to speak up, told of things he saw himself becoming and how they would help man. He was to become many baseball bats and they would play this game with him that would help teach the people of working together as a team. Yet another tree spoke of how they would make many pencils out of him and how he would be of service to all these children who would do their homework with him and all the different things they would learn. He also saw himself becoming another sort of pencil that artist would use to create wonderful works of art that would bring much joy to the artist and the people that would receive them. This other tree spoke with cheer from knowing she would be made into a big log cabin in the mountains and that this family would have many years of enjoyment within its` walls. The family would drive up to the big log cabin often to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city life. They would come up there sometimes in the summer to enjoy nature, spending time in the forest hiking on the trails and swimming in the lake. They would also

come up sometimes in the winter to enjoy the ski lodge or just to make a snowman. There was a tree who first spoke with sadness which then turned to joy. It saw that it was to become firewood only to be put into a fireplace to be burned up and this is what made it sad. But as it looked further into the future it saw that on this cold night it was to be burned that this family would sit around it and gather warmth from the heat it made. But most importantly, there would be a great forgiveness and healing within the family as they sat around the fire and talked and stared into the flames. The knowledge of this forgiveness and healing that would happen for this family is what brought joy to the tree. After the healing the family was filled with joy and laughter and broke out the marshmallows to roast in the fire. Then a tree spoke up with the happiness and joy of a child, experiencing Disneyland for the first time. He let the other trees know that he was to be shaped into a surfboard and that the man that was to own him had such a love and respect for the ocean that the tree suspected that the man had gills on his neck like a fish. The tree was so happy because they would play together every morning in the ocean, riding the waves and they became the best of friends enjoying the dolphins, seals, little fish, and pelicans as their playmates. All of a sudden a hush came over the forest and all the trees stopped speaking because they heard an elder of the forest begin to clear his throat, making ready to speak and they had never heard an elder speak. He was a mighty sequoia, a redwood that had been around for thousands and thousands of years. The elder pointed one of his branches toward a tree that was super-duper sad and had big tears coming down from his eyes. The elder told all the other trees that what this sad tree had to say was very important. This one tree next to the sad tree asked him why are you so sad brother. The sad tree wiped his tears away and began to tell his story of what he would become and the things that would happen in the future. He said they would make a packing crate out of him. Another tree asked with curiosity, well what's wrong with being a packing crate you will deliver something inside of you that the people will need and it will make them happy. And the sad tree said yes I will do that but its` what they do with me after is what makes me sad. After they are done with me they will put me in this alley and this man who is brokenhearted will sit on me for a long time and drink from this bottle all the time and he will be filled with this pain and despair.

Another tree asked why is this man so brokenhearted? The sad tree looked into the future and saw that this man had lost his whole family in one night. His wife, his little boy, and his little girl had been in a car accident caused by a drunk driver and no one survived but the drunk driver, who was now in prison paying for the choice he made. This is why the man gave up on life and chose to drink alcohol all day. The sad tree continued his story and saw that a carpenter would change the life of the brokenhearted man. Walking on his way to work one day a carpenter saw the man on the crate. The man asked the carpenter, could you please help me out with some spare change mister? The carpenter said sure here you go brother and gave him a twenty dollar bill. The carpenter continued on his way to work and said a little prayer for the man on the crate. The next morning the man on the crate saw the carpenter walking to work again and asked him could you please help me out with some money to get something to eat? The carpenter said of course I will and gave him twenty dollars. He crossed the street and went to work, saying a little prayer for the man as he did so. The carpenter was working across the street where this building was under construction. So he could see the man on the crate and what he noticed was that the man spent his day asking for money and then going to the nearby market to buy alcohol. So the next day as the carpenter walked to work he saw the man on the crate and the man asked him for money again. The carpenter told him no and instead gave him a blanket and some food he had brought for the man. The man just set the things aside and shook his head. The carpenter walked on to work and said a little prayer for the man. The next morning the man on the crate saw the carpenter walking to work and asked him can I please have the money today? The carpenter said no and instead gave him a jacket he had brought for the man and told him he could have it because it was getting cold. The man just threw it down and said what will I do for money? The carpenter asked him if you would like to get up off that crate and make some money I need a helper for the job I am doing. The man told him no can't you see that I am busy. The carpenter said that he understood and walked on to work and said a little prayer for the man. That night the man on the crate had a beautiful dream. He dreamt that he was with his family again and they were all in this wondrous place where he somehow knew and felt that there was always and only peace and

happiness in this place. The man instantly felt and told his family that he wanted to stay with them forever in this magical place filled with love and light. And that he did not want to go back to where he was, to a place of sadness and darkness. All of his family smiled at him and told him that someday you will be able to come back and stay with us forever. But for now they just wanted him to know that they would be here waiting for him and that they hoped that by him knowing they were in a good way that he would not be sad anymore and move on with his life. When the man woke up the next morning he remembered the beautiful dream and he was instantly filled with hope and smiled to himself thinking of his family and where they were and how they were doing. As he looked about at his surroundings and at the condition he was in he could not believe that he had let things get like this. And felt a sudden urge to do something about it. Just then he saw the carpenter on his way to work and thinking of the offer he had made. He leapt off the crate and ran to the carpenter and asked him if he still needed a helper. The carpenter told him yes, so they went off to work. As they started working the carpenter said some words over the wood. He thanked the trees for offering their lives and gave them honor for helping be of service to this building and these people. The man asked him why he did that and the carpenter told him about the tree spirits. As they were working through the week the man could see that the building was still in use. And that there were all these people going to these different meetings there. So he finally asked the carpenter what is this place anyway? The carpenter told him it was a recovery home for people who are challenged with alcohol and substance abuse. He told him they come here when their families can no longer do anything for them and have given up on them or for other people who have no family. So they come here and find a support group and recover their lives and find a new family within the group. The man heard this and said they find a new family and a new life. The carpenter told him yes that's what happens here. The next day they finished the job and the carpenter paid the man what he owed him and told him thank you and good luck my friend. But the man would not leave he just stood there looking at the ground and shuffling his feet. The carpenter asked him was there something else I can help you with. So the man got the courage to ask him, what does it take to get in this program it sounds like something I really need. The carpenter told him

he would be happy to help him and that the person who ran this program was a very good friend of his. So the man that used to sit on the crate found a new family and a new life. The tree that had been telling this story all along was now filled with joy and all the other trees around him asked him. Hey whats going on here you were so sad with big tears and now your all happy. So the tree told all the other trees, don`t you see he was sitting on me the whole time and I was supporting and helping him.