

The Dream Catcher

THE WEB OF LIFE As told by Scott Alexander King

Legend has it that one day Grandmother Thought Woman looked down from her place in the Great Mystery, the Void in which Spirit Beings like herself live. She saw, to her dismay, that the human children she had dreamed into existence generations before were sad and afraid. They had lost sight of the path and were wandering aimlessly through life.

Grandmother Thought Woman knew she had to do something to help her children, so using great power and concentration, she dreamed herself into reality as a dew drop on a tobacco leaf – a sacred herb used in pipe prayer and ceremony.

After many days of recovery and transformation and more recovery, Grandmother Thought Woman went to the Great Willow Tree and asked for a single branch. After receiving and giving thanks for the branch, she bent and bound it until she formed with it a perfect circle. This circle, which had no beginning and no end, symbolised the continuous cycle of life, death and rebirth, a concept forgotten by the children of Grandmother Thought Woman.

After this, Grandmother Thought Woman went to the Mighty Eagle and requested a single wing Feather. She humbly gave thanks and suspended the Feather from the powerful circle, binding it in place with red twine. The Feather, gifted by the majestic Eagle, would teach the children to have courage and belief in their abilities and to find strength in their convictions. Grandmother Thought Woman wanted her children to know no boundaries to how high they could soar or to know no limit to the great things they could achieve. She wanted them to believe in themselves the way she believed in them. Grandmother Thought Woman also wanted her children to remember their connection to Spirit, Great Mystery and Creation.

Soon after, Grandmother Thought Woman transformed herself into the Wise Woman known as Grandmother Spider Woman. It was Grandmother Spider Woman who sang the Universe into reality millions of years ago. Grandmother Spider Woman wove the Web of Fate, or the Wheel of Life, and now she wove the web of the first Dream Catcher. After Grandmother Spider Woman had completed spinning the beautiful and protective web in the centre of the willow circle, she placed a single turquoise stone in the very middle. Turquoise represents our connection to the Creative Force. It offers clarity, peace, communication and protection to those who wear it or carry it in a sacred way.

Grandmother Thought Woman looked at the Dream Catcher and was pleased. She pondered on it for a moment, and in her mind's eye pictured the benefits it would help bring to the People.

On taking it to her children, Grandmother Thought Woman explained its importance and sacred significance. She told them that as they slept, their subconscious mind woke and

actively participated in a life unknown to them. Sometimes its adventures are good; promising and even prophetic in nature, but sometimes its adventures are bad; dark, threatening and foreboding. On waking, glimpses of these adventures remain in the conscious memory and either excite us with their possibilities, or fill our heart with dread. When this is the case, our mind becomes confused and we are hesitant to go back to sleep. Lack of sleep leads to fatigue. Fatigue leads to mistakes, and mistakes lead to wastefulness.

By hanging the Dream Catcher above where we sleep, either from the ceiling or on a wall, our dreams are protected from negativity. All dreams will be drawn to the web, like bees to honey. All positive dreams will be allowed to pass through to be enjoyed by us as we sleep. Negative dreams, or nightmares, will be trapped in the web and destroyed by Grandfather Sun's first rays in the morning. They will melt, turn to dew and trickle down the Feather of the majestic Eagle. Eagle's spirit, which is still alive in the Feather, will cleanse the nightmare of negativity, so that when it finally drips off the tip of the Feather as the first jewel of the morning, it will return to Mother Earth and be absorbed by her, never to haunt our sleep again.

This is the legend.

After telling the story, and reassuring her children of her eternal love for them, Grandmother Thought Woman returned to the Void, her place in the Great Mystery, where Spirit Beings like herself live.

Mi taku oycin
We are all related.

NB it is illegal to use any part of the Eagle for any reason, due to it being a protected species. Finding a dead Eagle (eg: a victim of road kill), is not an acceptable excuse to possess its feathers. The Eagle and its feathers, whether dead or alive, are protected under Australian law, which permits the possession of such items under license and for specific reasons only. It is for this reason that the feathers of the Turkey (known by some Native American People as the Ground Eagle), is encouraged as a legal alternative.

**Scott and his wife Trudy own and run
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The store stocks items influenced by the
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Scott is also the Author of Animal Dreaming**