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In the story *The Wise Man of the Hallawaya*, we explore the forces that pull us back 'home', and what drives us to leave in the first place.

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PARABLE:

THE WISE MAN OF THE HALLAWAYA

Chapter 1

Papina's five sons, three daughters and 12 grandchildren gathered at her home with their spouses to help her pack and see her off. After 40 years of marriage, Papina's husband had recently passed away, and she felt compelled to visit Kanwa, the village she was born and raised until the age of 16.

At the time, a wealthy businessman from across the seas was visiting Kanwa, and found great interest in Papina. In exchange for a fee, and the promise of a better life, it was the decision of Papina's father to let the wealthy businessman take Papina with him to be his wife. She was leaving behind a close-knit community of family and friends, which she would miss very much.

Papina quickly discovered her new life offered much more, in terms of material pleasures, and became accustomed to the lifestyle. She would often think of her life in Kanwa, but because she was busy caring for a household and keeping up with the demands of being a good wife and mother, those thoughts would fade. Only now with her husband passed and all of her children grown, did an opportunity present itself.

The Kanwa village, which resided beside the gorgeous Hallawaya Mountains, was no longer a village. More businessmen from across the seas saw potential in the land and transformed it into a resort. When it happened, Papina was saddened to imagine all of her people being displaced from their homes and forced to move to other nearby villages. The urge to go back grew stronger, but ultimately, there was nothing she could do. ¹

¹ OUR ROOTS: Something feels missing in life when we have lost touch with our roots, be it our culture, our childhood, or any other place we see as our beginning. It is as though we are missing important pieces to the puzzle of who we are, and a void is created in our development. There is a reason we feel that way: We are part of huge story being told for the human race, and if we forget where our ancestors have been, it is difficult to contribute and continue their work and build on their story. Without keeping in

“Are you sure you don’t want us to go with you to the airport, Mother Papina?” one of her daughters-in-law asked as she helped pack with the others.

“No. I’ll be fine, dear,” Papina gently smiled. “Don’t worry about me.”

One of Papina’s grandsons, a toddler, jumped onto her lap, saying, “I’m going to miss you, Mother Papina!”

“Oh, I’ll miss you, too! But I’ll be back before you can count to 100!”

The toddler jumped off her lap and ran off, trying to count as high as he remembered.

The entire family stayed until the middle of the night, and then left Papina to rest. She had a flight to catch early in the morning.

Chapter 2

On the plane back to Kanwa, Papina did not know what to expect. Without her blood-related family or old friends present on the land, she imagined it would be strange. She did, however, believe that the air itself would still be rich with the life and energy she once loved. Growing up, she and all the other Kanwa kids were taught about Mother Earth and its wondrous qualities. They were expected to know how to communicate with the land, air, and sea, enjoying it all in mutual love and respect. For that reason, Papina had always known that the

touch with our cultural roots, it becomes easy to get lost in our mere existence and forget that we are part of something bigger.

Learn about your roots so you can edit, redirect and improve the areas of error of past generations. As our story continues to be told, we, as a whole, can then progress for the collective good and have better understanding in loving others and ourselves.

Keep in mind that we become lost in life if we are not aware of the roads that people have paved for us to travel.

Kanwa land was resilient. A modernized resort could not steal its essence or change its beauty.

She was right. As she arrived to Kanwa, it certainly looked different, but it felt the same. The earth seemed to hug her as it would a long lost daughter, and it instantly began sending her memories that had long been forgotten from her childhood. It was as though she had never left. She had forgotten what it felt like to truly feel at home. There were many foreigners enjoying what the Kanwa resort had to offer, but Papina was sure that none of them were experiencing it the same way as she.

That first night when she went to bed, a full moon outside her window shined on the Hallawaya Mountains. It triggered memories to the fact that every Kanwa villager was meant to climb up the mountain when they were of age. The mountains earth was told to be the richest and possess unique spiritual qualities every Kanwa person should experience once in their life. Papina had left before she had the chance, so she decided that first thing in the morning, that was what she would do: climb the Hallawaya Mountains.

Chapter 3

Papina woke up at 5 a.m. to begin her climb. There were easy trails to follow to a certain point, but for how high she wished to go, she started to create her own path. Between moments of rest and taking breaks to eat, her journey to one of the mountainous peaks ended up taking nearly six hours.

As promised, the air was wonderfully clean and the view was majestic. The earth's voice was clear and inspiring. She put down her knapsack, and sat to look. After a few minutes, she began to cry.

"Why are you crying?" a man's voice suddenly said from behind her.

Papina was so startled that her scream echoed through the mountains. The man laughed.