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Story 14: La Milagrosa



Story shared by: Jorge

Representing: Cuban and lives in Belgrade.

The Story:

La Milagrosa means a woman who performs miracles. But in this story, La Milagrosa did not perform any magic. She was a normal woman from Havana, and her real name was Amelia. She fell in love with a poor guy. The problem was that she was a member of the aristocracy in Havana, so they could not get married. This happened around the time of Cuba's war for independence against Spain, and he fought against the Spanish. When the war ended, the whole political system changed. So, when he came back, they would finally be able to get married. However, they could not have had kids for a long time. Eventually, she conceived, but she died while she was giving birth to her boy.

The whole myth started after she died. Her husband used to go to her grave every day to talk to her. So he would come, knock, and talk to her. Eventually, the graveyard had to be rearranged so the bodies were exhumed from the grave. During the exhumation process, they opened Amelia's coffin only to realise that her corpse was wholly preserved. From that moment, she was named Milagrosa because it was a miracle that her body was intact. Since then, her monument has been believed to have magical power, especially for women who have problems having children. Thus, they started to go to her grave and ask for things - for having babies and for the protection of children.

Jorge explained to us: I learned this story while walking through the cemetery with my mother. We passed by the tomb of Milagrosa, and it is a beautiful tomb, a statue of a woman with a baby, and her eyes are amazing. When you walk around the statue, you must be turned towards her and shouldn't turn your back to Milagrosa. And you can see that the monument is always full of flowers, sometimes



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even papers with people's wishes and requests. These requests are mostly about fertility or about protecting the kids, but they are usually written by mothers or by women who want to be mothers.