



Excerpt from the "MAGIC TREE" Book by Talidari

You can obtain from the whole book:

http://www.talidari.net/books/magic_tree.html

or

<https://www.amazon.com/Talidari/e/B009S8X9OY>

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Talidari/e/B009S8X9OY>

<https://www.amazon.de/Talidari/e/B009S8X9OY>

Available in all Amazon stores around the world
in Kindle and paperback.



An excerpt from CHAPTER 3 It takes place in Croatia at an apartment - conversation between Demir and Magda, where Demir reveals her all about the Magic Tree

“Hi, I’m Demir. I overheard you are going to Istanbul next week,” he made a remark with a Bosnian accent.

“I haven’t decided yet,” Magda just said in a low key, showing no interest in talking to the guy, because he looked pretty nondescript, wearing hair that must have seen better days. She reckoned he must have been in his mid-thirties.

“I love Istanbul. I suppose it’s one of these places you either love or hate,” he carried on with a smile on his face and a far-away look in his eyes as he was obviously walking down the memory lane, “I’m sure you will love it. It has so much to offer for someone who is open-minded.”

“What did you do there?” She didn’t really care, but was just being polite. She was curious, though, about Istanbul.

“I don’t know how to tell you this. I guess you can call it a mission.”

Him being mysterious, it got her a bit interested: “What kind of mission, if you don’t mind me asking?”

“Well, I don’t mind you asking if you don’t mind me answering,” he said it sotto voce.

Now she was even more interested: “I don’t mind, why would I?”

“Because the answer is not the kind you would expect to hear. It might affect you,” he looked straight into her eyes while saying out the words.

She thought what an unusual guy. Surely, she didn’t want to get more disturbed or confused than she already was, but couldn’t help but ask: “What mission then?”

“I needed to find a Sufi mystic there to teach me how to surf.” He said it as if he was on a verge to reveal her some huge secret.

“Excuse me?” She was laughing at the silly idea. To her knowledge, Sufis didn’t surf, and it was impossible to surf in Istanbul anyway. “Don’t mind me asking, but shouldn’t you learn surfing from the surfers in a surfing country?”

“Only the technique, but not the principles. It’s a long story, but I’ll make it short for you. My mission was to find a secret tree, and in order to find it, first I had to capture some obscure creatures that guarded the tree, prevented the access to it. The best way for me to learn to overcome them was through learning to overcome the waves, since surfing is my passion. I tell you, a surfing board is my magic carpet. Principles for overcoming obstacles are the same everywhere, whether we deal with waves, otherworldly creatures, monsters, ghosts, people or anything else. Riding tides has also helped me learn a great deal about balance and standing firm on my feet through rough times in life. I learned a great deal about the principles that underlie surfing like everything else from my Sufi master. Surfing is performed by heart and mind more than by muscles. That’s why I had to train my mind and heart too.”

He was right, it did shock her, but in the same time, it was music to her ears. A secret tree! It was all coming back to her. But is he talking about the same magic tree or is he just some forester or a botanist? She couldn’t wait any longer, the words just burst out of her mouth: “You mentioned secret tree. What kind of a tree you are talking about?”

He noticed she was funny about it, therefore he tried to be discreet: “Don’t shoot, I can’t tell you this, it’s confidential. If I tell you I would have to kill you,” he was just trying to be funny.

“No, serious, is it the wish-fulfilling tree?”

He was taken by surprise and looked at her in wonder: “You know about it?”

“I only heard about it, but I never looked for it,” she explained.

“Why not? You don’t believe it?”

“It’s not that. I don’t know. Maybe. The truth is I got talked out of it.”

“I see. You broke the secrecy rule. You told others and broke the magic spell,” he said.

His interpretation made sense to her at that moment. It suddenly became obvious to her that she broke the rule by not keeping it as a secret. Discretion was obviously not her strong suit. The Chinese guy did warn her to keep it under her hat, but she wouldn’t listen. She didn’t realize it at the time, but she made a mistake of telling her friends about it because in doing so, she allowed them to talk her out of it. Talking too much about it took the edge off her resolve. It’s just as same as breaking the magic spell. She was amazed by this discovery, even so by meeting a person who knew more about it.

Her eyes were glowing like stars when she addressed him this time: “This is unbelievable! You know about it? Have you found it yet?”

“Yes, I did, but you see, I wasn’t ready at that time and that’s why it did me more harm than good,” Demir sounded sad and looked the other way.

“What do you mean? I thought this tree makes all your wishes come true, doesn’t it?”

“Oh yeah, it does, that’s the problem. You see, I didn’t get all the tools; that was why I wasn’t prepared to confront it.”

“I don’t understand. What happened?” She sounded a bit disappointed.

“Let me put it this way. Tell me something, are all your thoughts and wishes always positive?”

After giving it some thought she answered: “Most of the time, I think. But I see what you mean. It’s not only the good wishes that the tree fulfills, but the bad ones too,” she gathered.

“That’s the trouble, it makes *any* wish come true,” he stressed the word ‘any’. “Therefore, you need the tools that would enable you to crystallize your *true* wishes.”

“Don’t get me wrong, but how on Earth is it possible that a tree could grant wishes. You have to admit that it doesn’t make sense and that it sounds like a fairy tale about goldfish and Aladdin’s lamp.”

“You’re right. My bad. I expressed myself wrongly. Actually the tree doesn’t grant any wishes at all, but wishes come true when you wish them beneath it, if you know what I mean. It could be that this tree has pure energy, and every person, who manages to find it, has to be purified, which is why miracles happen and everything is possible there. And then there are also the spirits that live in the tree. The Holy Spirit, if you like.”

She was extremely excited to hear this story and was absolutely sure she wouldn’t make the same mistake the guy did. Funny how she stared at him, as if he were some crystal ball that would let her peek into the realm of answers. All things considered, she got cute on him for a change and pleaded:

“Demir, you must tell me more about those tools you mentioned, please. I won’t make the same mistakes, I promise.”

“Sure you will, but I will tell you anyway, since you know about it already. The tools are no secret. You better write them down, so you don’t forget.”

She was so excited that she forgot all about making the decision about going to Istanbul. She found a paper and pen, and got ready to start writing.

“All right, you will need a treasure map and gear – a few keys and many tools. The treasure map will give you directions. The keys and tools are the virtues, which are the means to overcome any obstacles. Keys will open doors for you, and tools will help you fight off the evil forces that prevent you from finding the magic tree, from fulfilling your mission. The first two keys you already got, I hope - the *faith* in the existence of the tree and the *discretion* in order to preserve your faith. Because of it I’m going to tell you about the tree, and not to the others.” He glanced at the friends playing cards at the other corner of the room. “Other two vital keys are your *imagination and optimism*. Use them as much as possible. Never forget and always believe that whatever you can imagine, you can achieve it. It’s because our dreams and desires are in fact insights into the world of our own possibilities, **windows** into our future, which will manifest itself if we **go with the flow**. Go on, write that and double-underline it. He waited until Magda got it all down on paper, then he continued: “A very important key is authenticity. You have to follow your own destiny, your own purpose, and not to follow into footsteps of others who teach you or raise you or seem to have found what you are looking for. It’s because each of us has a different mission to fulfill in this life. What is good for others might not be good for you. A path that led someone to fulfilling his destiny most likely is not the same path that is meant for you. You can follow the same steps as someone who has already succeeded in what you want, but it would not lead you to the same end because you are in many ways different and you both had a different starting position. Most likely you are also meant to achieve different ends indeed. The way about finding the magic tree and overall well-being is mostly through three sacred virtues – *wisdom*, *love* and *authenticity*. Authenticity is the trickiest, so make sure you stay authentic, true to your values and your purpose in life. Other people will always try to impose their personal beliefs, preference and ideas on you about how to live your life and what to do. That is why you will need a variety of tools to defend yourself and your authenticity against them. For example,

resilience, self-confidence, determination, persistence, commitment, dedication and similar virtues. Once you are determined to follow your mission through, you will need those tools to make it happen. Otherwise, you'll be spinning in circles and waste time. Feel free to write them all down”

Demir continued when she finished writing down: “Most people suffer because they have false beliefs, convinced that great life is achieved by means of education or knowledge. Nothing wrong with knowing, but it is *being* that does the trick. Neither knowing, nor having ensure happiness. It is *being* that does it. What we are, not what we know, is what brings us prosperity. The road to fulfillment is paved with virtues. A key to wish fulfillment is to be a better giver. In order to receive, we must give, rather than know or have.”

“Sorry to interrupt you, Demir, sure it is good to be generous, but I know of many people who are stingy and rich, so I am not convinced.”

“If someone is stingy towards some people, it doesn't mean they are stingy to everyone or in general. Besides, giving and receiving is not about giving to anyone or to those who want us to give them, it is not about supporting other people's needy attitude. Giving is, among other things, about investing, like with sowing and reaping. It is about supporting good causes rather than, say, the relatives who choose to entertain scarcity mentality. So if you have a rich uncle who doesn't cater to your needs, it is not that he is stingy but it means you are greedy. I'm just saying. We all get what we give in the end.”

“I see. But the rich are not known for their virtues, quite the opposite, right? So, I don't buy that being nice is more important than being educated.”

“I never said anything about being nice. Kindness is just one of many virtues and, you are right, it is not the one that brings the riches. For wealth you need other virtues, depending on your industry, such as resourcefulness, perseverance, determination, resilience, confidence, enterprisingness, self-initiative, self-discipline, courage, creativity, diligence, and so on. And by the way, how many well educated people do you know that are rich? Most of them are poor, aren't they?”

“I guess it is what you do with what you know.”

“It would be great if people did what they know, but usually they don't. Everyone knows it is not good to smoke, lie, steal or cheat; still most people do it. What use is knowledge if one has no virtues! And, it is *not* what you do with what you know, because as you know, there are enough well-educated people who work hard from dawn to dusk, but still get nowhere. It is what you are that matters. So, your means to reaching the magic tree, as well as anything in life is through being virtuous, not through possessing or being well informed. These other things help in many ways, but they don't provide the ultimate realization of your dreams. They can even prevent you from reaching your goal because they can be burdening and misleading. It is who you are, your authentic self, your soul, which will guide you to your destination.”

He took a sip and continued: “So, back to the tools you need to overpower the sprites that guard the magic tree. Other very important virtues are *responsibility* and *gratitude*. Everything starts with taking responsibility for your own life and everything that happens in it, instead of expecting things from others or blaming them for your own condition. The most customary and convenient is to blame government and parents, which is absurd, because it is common knowledge that there are countless others who have been dealt the same or even worse cards yet doing fine. Of course, because the deciding factors are not external but the internal ones. When you take responsibility for your life, you do not expect others to give you what you need and you do not wait for others, but you know it's all in your hands, and then you go and get it. You don't let your success be dependent on others. Also, it is crucial to be appreciative and grateful for everything, every

little thing, including the unpleasant things from which we can learn something. It puts the mind on the positive, instead of dwelling on the negative. Keeping your mind preoccupied with positive things is vital, because the mind is extremely powerful. It can make you or break you.”

Given all these directions, Magda was looking more at the paper than at Demir, so he waited for her a bit before he continued: “Then there are other necessary virtues, like *will power, hope, honesty, sincerity, integrity, righteousness, generosity, prudence, endurance, modesty, humility, humbleness, diligence, self-discipline, moderation and so on*. Write it all down”, he dictated it to her and continued:

“As I already told you, you need the treasure map that will show you the way, but remember there are no shortcuts. I had to learn that the hard way. I wanted to skip some steps and it costed me an arm and a leg, so learn from my mistake – don’t rush things. And don’t try to cheat the time. Speaking of time, whenever you get attacked by impatience, just remember that it cannot dawn before a sunrise.”

“Rome wasn't built in one day,” Magda affirmed it.

“You can put it that way. Also, there is a season for everything. In winter you can shake a cherry tree all you want and not even one fruit will come down, but if you come in June, you don’t even have to shake it, just sit under the tree and cherries will fall into your lap just like that. The best things in life can be accomplished without any effort, if you're in the right place at the right time with the right attitude. It is not worth fighting with time, the best is to make friends with it. What you need to do is not fight the time, but make friends with it, if you get my drift. In befriending time you will need two important tools: *understanding* and *patience*. Along the way, you will encounter all sorts of people, many of whom will put obstacles on your path, throw you off the course, challenge you and lead you in all sorts of temptations. Let them be. It’s good when it happens, because through facing such people, you will have a chance to obtain other essential tools-virtues, which are *compassion, tolerance, mercy, forgiveness, detachment, kindness and*, among others. And for some obstacles, you will also need *courage* and *perseverance*. Never give up. Persistence is the key to every closed door you come across -. Remember that! That’s right, underline it.”

Where had she heard that one before! The three magic words rang a bell. Magda was now more impressed with Demir than with the Chinese real-estate tutor in Canada. Even so, as she was writing it all down, she couldn’t help thinking what did it all have to do with finding the tree.

“Demir, wouldn’t be easier for both of us if you just told me where the tree is, instead of all this?”

He just smiled and looked at her with compassion. She reminded him of himself, when he was starting his journey. He had the same questions and the same impatience.

“Where is the fun in that? You prefer that everything is handed to you on a plate, but this is not how it works.”

“Why do I need all these tools to find the tree?”

“As I said, you need them to conquer all the obstacles on the way to the tree. The thing is, just imagine if anyone had access to that tree. There are many mean people in the world who could wish bad things for others and the world. Also, many people don’t know what’s good for them, so they wish unnecessary and even harmful things for themselves. That is why the magic tree is guarded by goblins, which you have to overcome first to be able to reach the tree. For that you need them tools. These tools will help you subdue anything that stands in the way of reaching your goal.”

“But I have them already, more or less. Virtues are virtually innate to all people.”

“Sure, we are all born with them, but we don’t use them enough. My point is to emphasize the importance in using your virtues as tools in life – to use them as cause, not just as consequence. For example, we shouldn’t be generous only when we have plenty, but we should be generous in order to have plenty, so that it would be also given much to us because of our own generosity. With virtues we cause things to happen. But most people cultivate virtues only as effect of something they get or achieve. They cultivate the virtue of joy only when something happens worth of joy, instead of using the unconditional joy to attract more of the joyous circumstances. They love only when there is something or someone worthy of love. They are only generous when someone deserves it or when they have plenty or get something in return. And so on. Virtues should be a cause rather than an effect. Get it?”

“Sure I get it, but since I am not one of those mean people who would misuse the magic of the tree, I would like to know if there is a way for me to find out where exactly the tree is, so that I wouldn’t beat around the bush and waste time, if you know what I mean.”

“So, you’d like to take a short cut, is that what you are saying? Didn’t you say you had all the virtues, patience included?” He gave her the same kind of answer he got from his guide not that long time ago.

“What I’m saying is that I don’t see the connection.”

“Of course, this is what this quest is all about, to open your eyes to see that connection, to see the interconnectedness, of all things, to see the invisible dimension and ties of all there is. When you reach that level of perception of the world and life, when you achieve a higher level of consciousness, everything will be possible and attainable for you. Right now, your eyes are closed for subtle sights, like most of other people. That’s why there is struggle in the world. Nearly everyone is hypnotized. Looking is not as same as seeing. Neither is listening as same as hearing. To see something, it’s not enough just to open eyes. On the other hand, we can see with our eyes closed, we can see without even looking. Still, most people look without seeing. What I mean, you are at the moment short-sighted, you don’t see far and beyond just yet, you don’t see the whole picture, nor do you see the invisible. You might find yourself standing in front of the tree and not recognize it. Sometimes we do not see the forest for the trees, but at other times we do not see the tree for the forest. Meaning to say, sometimes we don’t see the big picture, the broader context, because we are too immersed in the detail, but at other times, we don’t see the thing we are looking for, because we are overwhelmed with all the mass concepts. What you need to do to be able to get to that tree is to open your third eye to see beyond the obvious – to see the fifth dimension of all there is. And why stop there, while you are at it, unlock your third ear too, so that you can *hear* what you *listen*. But to be able to do all that, you need these tools. Unless you go through the whole process, you won’t be able to recognize the tree. You must know that in order to achieve something momentous as finding the mother of all treasures, you must purify yourself first; you must deserve it. By the end of your journey, you might totally alter your view of what the real treasure is. The important part of the journey is to find what the real treasure is, not just where it is. Also, before you can find out where this tree is, you need to realize what it actually is so as to be able to recognize it. It may not be what you think, the way you imagine it.”

“I got it, everything in the world is connected on some level and virtues are linked to the magic tree, that is, to the fulfillment of wishes.” She got convinced. “I guess what you are saying, I need to be virtuous and should know what to wish from the tree to be able to find it, right?”

“Right. When you find this tree you should not only know exactly *what* you want, but also *why* you want it. The reason why should be aligned with your own purpose in life. Finding out what you want seems easy, but it’s not at all, because you got conditioned to want many things that might even not be good for you. You have to find what you, Magda, want and not what others want for you. That applies to everything, including what you want in terms of education, profession, type of boyfriend or car and so on. Let’s say some people want a cool car; it’s mainly to impress other people, when you come right down to it. I know a fancy car speaks highly of the owner, but wouldn’t it be better if they impress them with their own qualities rather than with the qualities of the car?”

“Yeah, it’s probably because it’s easier to get a good car than good personality. Materialists value more aesthetics than ethics,” she made a comment, subscribing to his point of view.

“I don’t know about that, I see it differently. I think people are good by nature, but they are disconnected from their true nature, from their souls. It’s not that simple to find the way back in all this darkness, but it is easy. It is much easier to be good than to acquire a good car. It’s because it is so easy to be good. It is in our nature; that’s why it is easy. There is always a link to our soul; we just need to hold to it. That is easy, if our eyes are wide open to see beyond three dimensions, and if our ears are receptive to hear the inner guidance.” He was pointing to his belly.

“What do you think it is what got people disconnected in the first place?”

“You see, that’s a very important question. It takes us to the main task on your journey. In order to find the magic tree, you will need to conquer the evil spirits, which pushed you and all other people off the track. They turn us away from our true nature, alienate us from our own souls, disconnect us from the source and lure us away from the right path.”

“What do you mean by evil spirits?”

“In other words, they are destructive forces in nature, including human nature - all of our downbeat emotions and detrimental attitudes. In some cultures they call them demons, in others evil spirits. I call them goblins. Since they dwell mainly in the invisible dimension, most people don’t take them seriously and therefore are not aware of their strong impact on our lives. There are two most vicious ones, parents to all the other ones. Can you guess what they are?”

“You got me. I never thought about it. Tell me.”

“The two major goblins that breed all the other ones are the fear and the ignorance! They give birth to all the other goblins, such as anger, hatred, worry, revenge, jealousy, envy, attachment, greed, lust, stinginess, selfishness, doubt, prejudice, pride, vanity, impatience, discrimination, criticizing, arrogance, dishonesty, addiction, gluttony, sloth, shame, guilt, blame and so on.” He dictated it to her slowly and then continued normally: “On your quest, you will need to conquer them all. Let’s just say they are as real as the Loch Ness monster, but all the same they have power over us, because they attack us where we are most vulnerable, they act within our own beings, holding our minds and hearts hostage. And to be able to dominate them you will need to arm yourself with some internal tools. I told you what they are, but be able to use them efficiently you must first master them, of course. It’s the best if you do it beforehand. You know how they say we need to build our roof on a sunny day, not a rainy day.” He paused as to check how she was taking it all in. He felt good about being able to share this and helping somebody to find the tree.

“You mentioned the treasure map. Where do I get it from? Do you have it?”

“You probably already got it, but you were not aware. If not, you will get it in right time. But know that it’s not the kind of map that fits on paper, since it is written by gut, not by ink. Just follow your gut, as it will tell you where to go.

Your intuition is your guide on this journey. I cannot give the map to you, because every person has a different one, depending on the starting position of each of us, and mine wouldn't work for you, it wouldn't take you there. Your path is probably better off being totally different from mine and I have no intention to make you believe that you should follow my way, or that my way is better than yours. It would be very stupid of me. It's a mistake that so many people make; they try to convince others to do things their way, to believe their beliefs, to think their thoughts. Just imagine if that would happen, if we all thought the same way, walked the same way, did the same way! What a boring place the world would be! Nobody and nothing to challenge us. Awful! You know what's wrong with this world – everybody is trying to save it, to make it a better place. The problem with that is that their definition of it is to confine everyone to their narrow view of the world. The truth is, there is nothing wrong with the world. In a greater scheme of things, negativity is as useful as positivity. All the troubles that are going on in the world are very necessary for evolution. They constitute the law of polarity, according to which everything fluctuates between two poles, plus and minus. We need all the pluses *and* minuses in life, ups and downs, fortune and misfortune, privileges and hardships, comfort and discomfort, advantages and adversities, days and nights, sun and rain, the cold and the heat, and all the rest. We perceive them as good or bad, but in reality it is just our point of view. In reality, everything is good and bad, or neither. As Shakespeare put it in Hamlet: "There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so." A negative doesn't necessarily mean a bad thing, neither a positive must mean a good thing. The contest of opposites is what makes the world go round. Without it there is no advance and no true joy. To make the world a giant, unipolar Pleasantville is unnatural, therefore Nature won't allow it. The Nature itself runs by opposites – days and nights, sun and rain, ebb and flow ... Without them, our world would collapse. That's why we have to perceive everything as good, so our world is good too; it doesn't need saving. And we don't have to be unhappy because it is not like in heaven. But I see I got ahead of myself here. The bottom line: I cannot show you the way or save you from losing your way. I can't know what you need to go through before you are allowed to reach the magic tree. Your map is only yours to have. It is written with your gut, not mine. You need to keep your authenticity to get to the tree, and not follow trodden paths of others. You might have already gotten a glimpse of your destined path, of your treasure map. When you open yourself to imagination, it comes to you. Obscurity lies only in the lack of imagination and intuition."

She sat there thinking back, jogging her memory trying to remember if she did get the map already. It took her only a few seconds to recall the day when she was mapping out the places she wished to visit, while she was sitting mesmerized in front of an atlas in Canada. *'That must be it'*, she thought. But the trouble was she didn't memorize all the places neither the route.

"Are you saying that before I get to the place where the tree is, I need to go to some other places first?"

"Yes and no. What I am saying is that in order to find the tree you need to get some things first and they probably happen to be in different places, and in different times. This search is more of a journey in time than in space. For some it can be even a journey without distance. Still, often we need to go far to see that which is close, because when we are too close to something, it's hard to catch a sight of it. That's why most of us need to distance ourselves, to get a better perspective, to see the forest for the trees and then see the tree for the forest; to stretch our legs so as to stretch our minds. But we need to come back, which can be awkward. Many seekers do not want to go back, to connect with their roots. That's why the real journey is from there to here, not the other way around. So you can also call it a journey from the many to the One. To go far is to return, to do a full circle. Mark those words."

"Hold on, I think I'm losing it. Can you translate that for me? You said I need to travel in time, but also in space, only to see what's already here and now. That means the magic tree is somewhere here in Croatia, isn't it? Or maybe there is not only one tree; maybe that tree grows in every country? Am I on the right track?"

“This kind of reasoning is typical human, because we think in terms of locations and three-dimensional space. But typical person have no access to the magic tree. If you want to find the place where the magic happens, you will need to do it in an atypical way. You will need to see the world as a multidimensional, holographic universe. Just keep on questioning everything; that attitude will take you far, and near. What I am trying to say is that you shouldn’t take anything at face value. If you focus yourself on something that turns out to be a wrong clue, it might take you forever to reach your goal. Things are not always what they seem, so the tree might not be there where someone tells you or how you imagine it.”

“You mean the tree is not really a tree?”

“No, I don’t mean that. Like everything else, this tree might not be as you imagine it to be, that’s all. As with anything magical, this tree, too, is not confined to the limitations of the three dimensions.”

“Well, I’m not sure how to take this, I have to process it, I guess. All right, you told me *what* I need to get before I find the tree, but you didn’t tell me *how* I can get them.” She stressed the words ‘what’ and ‘how’.

“I was coming to that. Although, you can’t find out everything from me, you know. Much will be revealed to you on the go and other things you will have to figure out on your own. So, as you know, you can’t mention the tree to anyone, therefore you cannot ask around about it, but what you can do, you can ask about the tools. You can inquire all you want about how to master each virtue. Once you master the use of tools, they will help you defend against all the goblins that prevent you from gaining access to the tree. In a way, those goblins are the tree’s defense or gatekeepers, for it would be too dangerous if just anyone could have access to it, since not everyone’s wishes are well-meaning. This is very important. Say, whenever hatred overtakes you, this means that this particular goblin of your mind has you under its spell, which will prevent you from reaching the tree and experiencing the wonders. So is with all the other negative emotions and thoughts that you allow to overcome you. When you are overtaken by any of those goblins, you are denied the access to the magic tree. So, whenever you fall into a temptation, as soon as a goblin attacks your mind and heart, you need to become aware of it and resist it with the help of some tools, some virtues. So, when you're overcome by hatred, immediately use some virtue as a tool to overpower it, instead of you being overpowered by it. For example, against hatred you could arm yourselves with a virtue such as understanding, tolerance, self-control, forgiveness, compassion, empathy or any other you see fit. As soon as you are free of the goblins, the tree will be made visible to you in its full glory. You know, like in the symbolic tale of Aladdin, he had to rub a lamp to make some miracle happen by the genie; here we have to shoo the goblins to have the tree perform wonders for us. It’s the same principle of doing something unconventional to achieve unconventional wonders. The way to gain everything you need to finally reach the tree is through *awareness*. That’s your key. You should be constantly aware of your thoughts and actions, and of goblins. To be mindful all the time helps you see things as they are, as they come and go, for the best response. Therefore, from now on, you had better be alert and watch what you’re thinking, saying and doing around the clock. You should be always in the moment. For example, when you eat, think only about nurturing, when you take a shower or do the housecleaning, focus only on the cleansing, when you read, concentrate on the learning, and so on; don’t let your mind slip away. By being fully in the present moment, you will be able to take full advantage of it instead of missing the point. Likewise, when some goblin appears, you will be able to immediately recognize it and nip it in the bud.” He let her for a few seconds to record what she wanted, and then continued:

“There are many powerful ways of learning awareness and vigilance, such as through *mental absorption*, *introspection*, and *reflection*. By practicing it, the awareness comes naturally. Bottom line, your task is to keep the presence of your mind in all you do. Apart from cultivating awareness, there are many other keys; it’s a matter of finding a best fit. In most cases, a way to get a hold of some virtue will be a simple case of either being open, shifting perspective, or letting

go. As you know, you are born with all the tools you need to achieve your wellbeing, with all the virtues, so it is just a matter of allowing it all to come to surface, a matter of using it all, making the most of your inner gifts, instead of blocking them by cultivating some vices. So that you know, it is not only the mind that should be aware. You should raise awareness also through your gut and the rest of your body. Your gut feeling and instincts will be your greatest guides. So, in order to receive guidance, your duty, basically, is to train your mind and listen to your gut and instincts. But in order to set things in motion, you will need your emotions, your heart.

After she made some notes, she took a minute to contemplate. She was quiet and lost in thought. But Demir brought her back:

“So tell me, do you still want to look for that tree? I hope you didn’t get discouraged by the challenging tasks.” He wanted to know how strong is her dedication to the quest. She needs to rise to the challenges. Most of the people would find it too complicated or odd to pursue it.

“Are you kidding, I don’t really have a choice. You got me all warmed up. By the sound of it, it’s not at all impossible. All I have to do is cultivate my virtues and ward off the goblins here and there, and then I will be drawn to the tree and make my dreams come true. That’s more fun than studying and slaving or sweating for living. I don’t mind the goblins. I can play with them. Challenges are the spice of life. With all the supernatural goblins and the cryptic treasure map, this mysterious search for magic tree turns a life into a fun joyride. I could use some adventure. The only thing I’m concerned now is that I don’t know where to go from here. You know, I think I got my treasure map when I was in Canada, but I lost it.”

“Not to worry, because if it’s the right one, it will come to you again and again, in many forms, most of the times, in the forms you don’t expect. So I suggest, expect the unexpected. You will be guided by being given opportunities and so-called coincidences like the ones you’ve been given today with me and with the offer for a fun job in Istanbul. If you use the keys of *awareness* and *obedience* to the omens, if you follow your gut feeling and do everything from your heart, then you have nothing to worry. It’s your responsibility to make use of them!”

“So help me God!” She concluded with excitement.

‘*He was right*’, she thought, ‘*he was so damn right!*’ She was very grateful to meet him. He clarified everything for her. It was probably no coincidence she met him. She felt like it was all a part of a grand design and that he was sent from God Himself, to help her find her direction.

“I guess that answers my question about going to Istanbul. When I was in Canada in front of the atlas I was imagining my ideal trip around the world, I remember that one of the first places I envisioned was actually Istanbul. And even before that, I promised a bird once that I would go out in the world and live my life on my own terms like birds do, relying on my instincts. I resolved to search for knowledge outside the mainstream, to leave college and the country. I decided against ‘learning by studying’ in favor of ‘learning by traveling’. So, I guess it’s time to follow through and pack,” Magda said in the end.

“Knock on wood. Look, I don’t know where you need to go from here, that’s for you to figure out, but I know that the way to discover the tree is not through others, but by your own insights. What you say sounds you’re on the right track. So, good luck!”

“Tell me something, if all this is supposed to be secret and we are not allowed to say anything about it to anyone, why then you are telling me all about it?”

“You see, the secrecy or discretion is only a tool to find the tree and I already found it. Only the ones who discovered the tree can tell about it, but only to those who are exceptionally receptive. Otherwise, it would be like casting pearls to the swine. And the ones like you, who are still searching for it, can be diverted or averted, if they don’t use that tool.”

It made sense. For what’s worth, she still wondered whether the tree was back in Canada. So she thought of the way to trick the guy into answering that question for her.

“Have you ever been to Canada?”

“No, I’d love to go there though. Why do you ask?”

“Well, that answers my question whether the tree is there.”

“No, no! You see, you are asking the wrong questions now! You gonna get misguided by them. The answer can’t be true, if the question is false. Answer is relevant only when the question is right.”

“What’s wrong with my question?”

“The thing is, you ought to ask the right questions if you want to get the kind of answers that will help you! Cheating will get you nowhere. Tricking someone into getting a clue is no virtuous way to go about finding the tree.

“If I did not hurt anybody with it, isn’t it more important that with such question I learned something useful? As long as the answer is true, who cares if the question is false?”

“The *true* answer is not necessarily the *right* answer. I already told you that the way to discover that tree is not through the insights or answers of others, but only through your own. I also told you that, when searching for the whereabouts of this tree, you shouldn’t think conventionally, in terms of locations and three-dimensional space, but instead see the world as a multidimensional, holographic universe. You’ve got to start paying more attention, you’ve got to learn to hear what you listen.” She gave him a look that asked for an explanation, so he continued: “I think the problem with most people is that they are chasing the right answers, instead of chasing the right questions. It’s our questions that determine the usefulness of the answers and the progress on our journey. If you want to have everything you wish for in life, you better start asking the right questions, girl!” She was still giving him the blank look, so he continued: “What I mean, you need to look for true questions before you settle for true answers. Do you understand what I mean? No. That’s what I thought.”

“You are confusing me, Demir,” she just said it with a request in her eyes, the request for more input.

“Look I wouldn’t be doing you any favor if I’d reveal everything to you. How do I put this?!” He was the confused one now, scratching his head, trying to find the words to make her understand the point, “all I can say at this point is that I didn’t give you the right answer because you didn’t ask me the right question.”

“Why are you being so mysterious about it? What would be the right question then? Is this tree in every country?”

“It would be the best if you don’t go down that line of questioning, because the tree is in a place that is not charted on conventional maps anyway. That’s why you cannot find it with a conventional inquiry.”

She opened her mouth to ask him another question, but he interrupted her:

“Look, don’t ask me anything more. You already know everything you need to know,” he rose up and joined the others at the table on the other side of the room. They were still playing cards, not minding the two of them.

You can obtain from the whole book:

http://www.talidari.net/books/magic_tree.html

or

<https://www.amazon.com/Talidari/e/B009S8X9OY>

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Talidari/e/B009S8X9OY>

<https://www.amazon.de/Talidari/e/B009S8X9OY>

Available in all Amazon stores around the world
in Kindle and paperback.