**ASIBIKAASHI – SPIDER WOMAN**

The legend of the dream catcher is rooted in the traditions of the Ojibwa Tribe, situated around the Great Lakes. This is where the dreamcatcher is said o have originated from. Other tribes may have their own renditions of this epic tale, but all tribes would embrace the same output of this story.

Asibikaashi, the revered Spider Woman, emerges as the guardian of her people, a role integral to the tribe's cultural heritage. The original dream catchers, crafted from bent wood and adorned with a feather, were designed to capture nightmares, inspired by spider-like webs and the tribe's snowshoe patterns.

The narrative recounts the enduring care of Asibikaashi for her people, though the tribe's dispersion to different corners of North America posed challenges to her watchful gaze. In response, mothers, sisters, and grandmothers took up the task of crafting protective webs for newborns, perpetuating the tradition.

The shape of the dream catcher, resembling an "r," symbolizes breath and air—essential for life. Hung above sleeping infants, these creations not only shielded them from nightmares but also provided a captivating lesson in the flow of air. The feather, swaying in the breeze, entertained and symbolized the vital importance of air in life's journey.

Dream catchers, with their intricate designs, also carried nuanced symbolism, with the choice of feathers representing wisdom (owl) and courage (eagle), reflecting gender-specific attributes within the tribal narrative.

In essence, the legend of the dream catcher encapsulates a profound connection to cultural heritage, weaving together tales of protection, wisdom, and courage. Passed down through generations, it stands as a timeless symbol embraced by communities across North America.

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