

Scene- Full moon, a young male figure in green clothing named Robin is leaning against the tree and steps forward to meet the crowd. Mist is rising behind him and the tree.

Robin

Welcome, welcome everyone! I have seen many of you over the years passing by on this road and I am happy you came here tonight for a closer visit. My name is Robin and I am the Spirit or friendly ghost if you like, of this Sycamore tree. Yes, I know, you may be wondering how a tree can have a spirit or maybe how a spirit can look like a tree. Well, legends say the unique character of a tree or for that matter, of a mountain, river or house is referred to as “the spirit of place.” And as you know a place can have a personality, make you feel happy, feel calm, give you inspiration or even feel a little frightening. Speaking of frightening, I have a famous cousin, also a tree spirit, that you may have heard of, the Whomping Willow, he is written about in the Harry Potter stories. A touchy fellow is Willow! Touchy. And this full moon you see behind me here (pointing to the full moon) some say in the month of October the moon has the spirit of a Hunter and is called the Hunters Full Moon. Next month it will have the spirit of a Beaver and be called the Beavers moon. Gosh, even your cars, computers and phones have a spirit that lives in them! Now admit it (whispers loudly) how many of you talk to your computers, hand tools or phones. And lots of people name their cars!! Now what makes this sycamore, my sycamore tree, here so special is that it has characteristics that make it part of a worldwide ancient belief that there are places or thresholds between the worlds -how many of you have watched Outlander? Beware of those standing stones. Irish tales say these threshold places are where “the veil is thin between the worlds.” In Japan, they believe these threshold places are where you can get a “glimpse of glimmer between the worlds.” There are tales of sacred mountains surrounding the town of Sedona in

Arizona, the enchanted forest and rivers of Eastern Europe and sacred Oak groves and forests of England. These stories have become so popular that out of curiosity more and more people have begun to visit these places –now becoming vacation destinations and even leading to some of these areas becoming protected sites. I hear you can sign up for a European Ghost Walk tour!!!! That would be a lot of walking my friends.

Well right here in Santa Paula, our sycamore tree has become popular on social media where people have posted -passing on stories from friends and relatives that spark our attention and imagination. The stories around this tree include not just tales of wandering spirits – it talks about what makes this tree so popular as a gathering place for weddings, for worship and at one time the local post office. Oh how I miss having weddings here. You know, it is good luck to get married under a sycamore as the tree stands for eternity, strength, protection and divine presence. And I still act as a postal station for love letters. For as long as I remember sweethearts entrust their letters to a hollow in the back of my trunk– you know, there are often numerous letters in my hollow and it is my task to make sure the right letter goes to the right person. Can't risk having a mix up between sweethearts–can you imagine the trouble! Many of those couples went on to get married under this tree. I especially remember the day Manuel proposed to Carmen under my wide canopy of green leaves. I tell you I never saw a fellow so full of love kneeling before that beautiful young woman. The heavens sang that day, the heavens sang!! They brought their kids to picnic under my shady green leaves. Happy times.