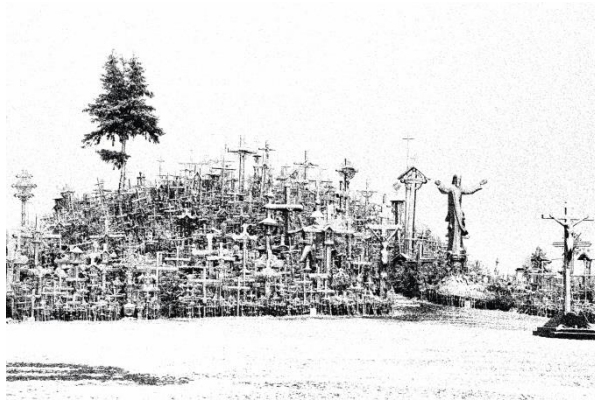


HILL OF CROSSES



LITHUANIAN LEGEND

Once upon a time, there was a nice family who lived in the north of Lithuania in Šiauliai. They had a beloved only daughter. One day she fell gravely ill. They



tried so many medications that had been brought by many people. However, drugs didn't help. Child's health was getting worse and day after day the death was nearing.

One night father was nursing his sick daughter and at midnight he was so tired and exhausted that he could not help himself and finally fell asleep next to the child. He had a dream that an extraordinary woman in light clothes appeared and said 'If you want your daughter to get better, you should make a wooden cross. It must be carried by you to the hill of the castle near Šiauliai city. Your daughter will overcome the illness when you have placed the cross on the hill.' Having said that the woman vanished.





When the man woke up, he could not understand if he had been dreaming or had been thinking about that. He decided to make a beautiful cross and to place it on the hill as soon as possible.

The cross was made and sanctified in order to get the daughter recovered. Father's health was not good enough and the cross was heavy. Despite that he brought the cross to the hill of the castle because he had made a promise. The trip took 13 hours. When the cross had been placed, he kissed it. It was the first cross on the hill.

On his way back home he met his beloved daughter and wife, who were going to meet him and enjoy the



sudden recovery. Father couldn't believe his eyes seeing such a miracle. He couldn't understand if it was real or not. It turned out that the time father left



home his daughter's health was getting better and better and when he reached the hill, the daughter recovered from illness.

Many people heard about the miracles happening on the hill. They began to act in the same way after they got sick. They promise to make and place a cross on the hill and the next day they get recovered. However, if they don't keep the promise, they fall ill again.

In that way many crosses have been placed on the hill since then from all Lithuania and abroad. Despite the fact that many crosses are destroyed by the storms, there are so many of them left like in a dense forest. That's why the hill is well known in Lithuania.



Cross-crafting is a unique folk art inscribed on the UNESCO list of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity in 2001. The tradition of cross-building was deeply rooted in the beliefs of our ancestors and their respect for the spiritual world. The Lithuanians built crosses as early as the XV century to commemorate the dead, express their respect for the spirits, hoping for mercy, seeking to express gratitude for generosity or in search of protection and spiritual peace.