

Legend of the Visnava



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THE FIRST makers of cactus candy were supposed to be the ancient Toltecs, the gentler and more poetic ancestors of the Aztecs. They believed that there was imprisoned within the visnaga cactus the soul of a beautiful maiden, who was loved by the Sun-God. The white pulp of the visnaga cactus was considered symbolic of the purity of the maid, and the armor of thorns covering its rind as supposed to have been placed there by the Sun-God to protect his lady love.

Upon this belief hangs the strange legend of the Toltec wedding and love-making. After the young man has ascertained, first from the mother, then from the father, and last from the daughter, that his wooing was looked upon with favor, he retired to the desert and after a most exhausting search, selected the choicest specimen of the cactus plant procurable, though it necessarily must be one which he could bring unaided to the home of the parents of the bride-elect.

Provided the plant secured was of sufficient merit, he proceeded to remove the thorns, using only his bare hands. After this difficult obstacle was accomplished, came the less envious process of removing the tough skin, using only his teeth without the aid of any instruments. If the young man's courage and desire for his mate still remained, the next process was to cut the glistening white pulp in sections of a given thickness, which of course were round. By this he signified that there was no end to his love. Next the pulp had to be boiled and the time consumed was from the rise of the sun until it had covered half its day's journey and stood directly overhead. The pulp was then removed and the young man set forth at once again to the high

mountains where he procured cold spring water sufficient to chill the pulp. Next in preparation was the crystallizing, which was accomplished by treating with wild honey, previously procured.

The entire process now completed, the sun has finished the last half of its journey, was slowly setting in the west; it was then the families of the bride and groom assembled, forming a circle around the couple, each having been supplied with a circular piece of the crystallized sweet. The groom now placed a similar piece between his lips, which was the signal for the bride to take the other side between her teeth, and as the candy was consumed, their lips finally met with the magic touch, which consummated the wedding and forever bound them together.

Surely, a great lesson may be learned from this legend, for today the day of the perfected Donofrio Cactus Candy, a product far superior to the old manufacture, undoubtedly as has the quality advanced, in the same measure will the modern man's suit advance. Supply HER with the delicacy of both the prehistoric and modern ages and without question the same result will transpire.

Remember the name and address.



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