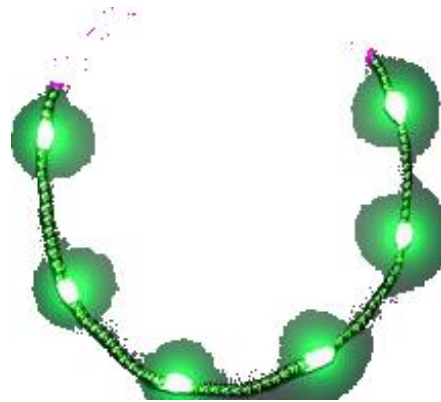


My Treasure

Grandpa Erv



Grandpa, please tell me a story



I would love to! Did I ever tell you about the time I found my greatest treasure?



No, you haven't. But what is a 'treasure?'



A treasure is something that is so very important to you that you never want to lose it. You carry it in your heart and whenever you can you hold it very close. Do you have anything like that?



I have my Lambie and my binky and I love ice cream.



That's it exactly! How sad would you be if Lambie and binky were taken from you? And you could never have ice cream again?



I would be so sad! I think my heart would break!



Yes. And that is why we hold treasures close to us and protect them and love them!



I understand. Now tell me the story about finding your greatest treasure.



I was once in a country called Thailand. I was out exploring the beauty of their country. I was walking by the ocean when I heard a cry for help! Someone was drowning! I took my shirt off and jumped in the ocean right away!



But, grandpa, weren't you scared? You could also have drowned!



I was a little scared but I had to help this man. I swam under the waves and got to him just in time. I grabbed him across his chest and I pulled him into shore. Thankfully, he was still breathing.



That is wonderful! But I don't see how this helps you find your greatest treasure.



Interesting enough, this is where it starts. The man was so happy he took off his necklace and gave it to me. He told me, "for saving my life I give you my greatest gift. The heebie-jeebie necklace. It will help you find your greatest treasure. Whenever you find it all the stones on the necklace will glow brightly."



Wow. Did it help you find your greatest treasure? Do you still have it?

Yes, sweetheart, and yes! This was a wonderful gift but I was a little sad that it wouldn't tell me where to look for my greatest treasure but would only let me know when I found it. So, I thought I would go visit all the things I wanted, loved and enjoyed, in hopes the stones would light up on one of them.



Did you find the one that did?



Not at first! I started eating my favorite foods. But nothing. Then, I took trips all around the world. Nothing. I took an ocean cruise. I stayed in Kauai. I drove my Jeep all through Lake Tahoe. I even tried taking all my \$ out of the bank. Nothing. I was confused. These are all so important to me, what could possibly be a greater treasure?



Gosh, grandpa. I don't know. Maybe he was lying and he gave you a fake necklace.



I thought that, also. I gave up trying to find my greatest treasure but I kept the necklace on just in case.



Grandpa, this is a sad story! You never found your greatest treasure!



It would be very sad but I am not done with the story yet. I have a secret to tell you.



A secret?

When you were born I was so happy!!! We came to see you right away. I can't tell you overjoyed I was to see you! I couldn't wait to hold you!!! I sat on your couch and your mom put you in my arms. And guess what happened...?!



It's me! I am your greatest treasure!



Yes, you are! I didn't even need the necklace to tell me that!

