

18. The Sycamore Tree with a Podium

Groendomein Wasven, Celebeslaan 30, Eindhoven (Tongelre) – www.wasven.nl

THE HAPPY SPOT

The World Tree is a huge sycamore tree. It has been standing in the castle park behind the Wasven farm since 1760. People are doing everything to help it live to a thousand years old. One example is the construction of a theatrical podium that was built over the roots – a desire to create a harmonious “outdoor room” for both man and tree where everyone can relax.

WHAT MAKES US HAPPY HERE?

A small paradise for people and animals. It's as if the tree has a podium from which to tell its story. Peacefulness. The notion of a tree as the living center of a community. The leaves throughout every season.

THE HAPPINESS TIPS

CONNECTING AND STRENGTHENING PEOPLE

- The World Tree Foundation seeks to protect and nurture the surroundings of selected trees so that they may grow to a ripe old age. In addition, it organizes activities around these trees in order to strengthen communities' solidarity. Each World Tree has patrons in its immediate vicinity. This sycamore tree is protected by “De Wereldboomgemeenschap van de Gevlekte Zuiderling”. With whom would you want to form **a distinctive community**? What would you call your community? Who or what would protect it?
- It is a very valuable thing to have a living monument as the center point of your family, association, town, organization or business. A tree is so physically solid and such a **living “anchor point”**. The World Tree Foundation encourages groups of people to designate a tree as the green heart of their community – to celebrate special moments there, for example. What tree could you and your identified group connect to and embrace? www.wereldboom.com
- The sycamore tree is a symbol of joyful spirit, **wisdom and insight**. Name three wise insights you have accumulated throughout your life. Next to the sycamore tree stands an old beech tree. In the Celtic culture, the beech tree is a symbol for creativity. How can you creatively set one of the wise insights you've accumulated in motion this week?

EVEN MORE HAPPINESS

- **Traditionally baked breads** and roasted coffee can be purchased in the Wasven shop. Yummy!
- Discover the monumental, ancient **Beukenlaan** and explore the Tongelre area. Follow the blue triangle trail “Tongers Ommetje” (3 km).
- Play the **Wasven quartet** “Groen Tongelre”. This will allow you to get to know the landscape and nature in the area in a fun and original way. You can buy it here for 3 euros.

GOLDEN HAPPINESS TIP

Ask for your golden envelope with the extra happiness tip at the farm.