

# The Legend of the Hummingbird

South America  
Paraguay  
Guarani



COMMISSIONED ART CREATED BY ROWAN NORTH  
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A young man and a young woman came from different tribes. These tribes were always at war or preparing for war. Thus, they could never be found together, at least not out in the open. The young woman named Flor (meaning flower) and the young man named Agil (meaning agile) determined to find a place to still meet each day. They found a spot by the stream to their secret meetings.

Then one day, Agil waited for hours and hours and Flor did not come. He did not know that Flor had been caught slipping away by her parents. She no longer wished to live. Tupa, the god of gods, did not want Flor's life to end and Flor became a flower. This transformation floated upon the wind until the moon learned of it. As the moon shone on Agil, the moon shared what had happened to Flor.

The moon whispered this sad story to the waiting boy. Agil called up to the sky, calling forth Tupa. The god heard the plea. The young man turned into a bird with a long beak with a green body and blue-violet throat. Agil the hummingbird searched up and down to search for his flower.

He flitted place to place, never knowing which flower was the one he loved. He drank the nectar of each flower he visited, hoping it would remind of the kisses they had together. As people saw this hummingbird, they were reminded of their own wishes and passions.

To this day, the hummingbird is known as a messenger of the gods to share healing, love, and joy.

*Rowan North based her drawing on Ñandutí that means "spider web" in Guarani and seen for lace stretched on a frame. The hummingbird native to Paraguay is known as the blue tufted starthroat. This bird can also be found in t is found in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Uruguay and Ecuador.*