

## The Miracle of the Lone Pine

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Two full summers since  
The Great Tsunami.  
Yet little grass grows  
In the salt-infused soil.

But amidst the desolation,  
A lone tree remains  
Where a breakwater pine belt once stood.  
I do not know who named it, but  
Everyone now calls it, "The Miracle Pine."

Strange dunes dot the tsunami-washed expanse.

A young mother comes here daily  
Looking for her 6-year-old daughter  
Engulfed instantly by the waves.

She feels her daughter's warm body,  
The exact size of her arms,  
And how her child's hands grew as she clasped them daily.

But now, her daughter is gone.  
Yet she cannot comprehend "gone."  
She still comes,  
Seeking the body in the dunes.  
Her search fruitless again today,  
She heads home, hoping against hope.

The Great East Japan Earthquake.  
Total confirmed deaths: roughly 15,000.  
Total missing: even now, roughly 2,900.