

### **Story: Buffalo Horse and the Girl**

At the time when day and night were still deciding who came first, there lived a Horse that is seen every year. The Horse had no enemies.

The reason that this Horse is seen every year is because of love.

It is a story that begins this way...

The Horse, who was called Buffalo Horse, was the fastest and gentlest of all the Spirit ponies. He felt no fear, there was not one that would harm him. If there was a humane being wounded or that needed a ride, Buffalo Horse was there to care and to carry the person. Because of the kindness of Buffalo Horse, there is more...

One day, as Buffalo Horse was feeling the good feeling from being free, he heard a cry for help. He ran to the edge of the forest and saw a child Girl caught in a trap. The girl's foot was cut, and the Girl could not move. Buffalo Horse went to the side of the Girl and as the Girl leaned against him, he bent to let the Girl get on his back.

The Girl, who had no name, could not believe that this beautiful Horse would come to her as a friend. All her life she had lived alone, for with her bad leg no one wanted her. As she rode the wind on the horse, she could feel the good feeling that Buffalo Horse felt. It was as if she were whole and that she was with family.

Buffalo Horse knew that the wound that the Girl had was one that could not be fixed or healed. He was taking the Girl to the Place of Souls. This place was where all were made whole and had no fear or need. Buffalo Horse felt sadness that one as young as this Girl had to go to the Place of Souls, but he knew that it would be for the best.

As they traveled, the Girl noticed that the trail was always changing. First it was as it was when the Girl had been hurt, then it was as it was when she had been happy. Then it was the time when she had not been born. Soon she saw things that she did not recognize. The Girl became more close to Buffalo Horse, for she began to fear.

Buffalo Horse had seen the times and had seen the Girl and her life. He had felt the feelings of the Girl. Buffalo Horse knew that if he continued this ride, he would not be free anymore. For the feelings that the Girl felt were now becoming the feelings of Buffalo Horse. For Buffalo Horse was the last of his magical race, the race of Spirit Horses that would feel the feelings of the human.

Should the human remain on Buffalo Horse, he would share the fate of the rider, for then a bond would be made that would not and could not be broken. Buffalo Horse knew of this bond, and as a result, the bond was made. This time, Buffalo Horse knew, this would be his last human.

As they traveled, the Girl began to talk to Buffalo Horse and Buffalo Horse listened. He listened to the hopes of the Girl that someday she would run with the leaves that blew across the ground. He listened as the Girl wished for someone to care and love the Girl who had the bad leg. As Buffalo Horse listened, he began to feel the love for the Girl that the Girl had wanted to give a friend.

"Yes," Buffalo Horse thought, "This is my last humane for I have found one that needs the feelings that I can give. Since I am the last of my race, I will spend the rest of my time with the one that can and will give the feelings that I need."

Buffalo Horse turned his head and nuzzled the Girl's head. He began to slow, for the end of the journey was near. The Girl looked up and saw the home of those who had gone before. She realized that her journey was complete for this life-round. She began to feel fear. But

as the Horse stopped to let the Girl down, the Girl realized that she had two good legs and that all her wounds, hunger, need, and hurt were gone. The Horse made no move to leave and the Girl knew that the Horse had committed to her.

Buffalo Horse had never brought his humans to the Place of Souls, so he was not familiar with the place. He had a new world to explore and he had a friend to explore it with. As Buffalo Horse and the Girl walked into their new world, the People felt a great foresight. Even though the People could not know what was happening, the feeling of great expectation and happiness was all around. Buffalo Horse could hear their happiness, and he knew that with the passing of many suns and moons, they would soon feel him again as Spring moved forward bringing new life.

And so it is, that through his loving sacrifice, Buffalo Horse was given opportunity to make his journey through our lives every April. He loves all his travels and the friends that he has made and continues to help along the way. He prayed to the Sacred Parents to be a reminder to us of the friendship that he and we have shared. And with Buffalo Horse's prayer, the Horses were given permission to return to their Sacred Duties of Healing Humanity.

We must always Remember and allow Ourselves to Be Reminded by Those Who Came Before and Watch us Still.