

SOVEREIGN BEINGS and LEADERSHIP

Interacting with horses shows us a new way of leadership.

Horses are sovereign beings, complete within themselves yet one with the herd, with their greater environment, with the earth and with Spirit. There is no separation.

While it may look to us like there is a leader of the herd – and just by the way who is this leader, is it the stallion or is it the lead mare? – and a hierarchy, a pecking order, maybe these are just our own mental constructs as a way to describe and understand the horses social system from within our own reality.

The integrity of the herd is a close-knit tapestry with no herd member being more and another being less important or valuable. They are all equal because each one is a sovereign being.

When you are a sovereign being there is no need to establish dominance, hierarchy, ‘top dog’ or who’s in charge. The need for competition doesn’t arise. You simply know who you are and through this inner knowing also feel the interconnectedness with everyone and everything. The good old “We are all One”!

With such a degree of sensitivity to Self and Other it is now possible to recognize and accept when it is a moment to step back and when it is time to step forward, when to act and when to be still and wait... because we are all connected, to ourselves, each other and the Greater Good.

In fact, I have noticed with my own herd of horses that different horses step forward to lead in different situations. For example, the mare who appears to be the second lowest in the pecking order at feed time, is the one who will go first in a scary situation on a trail ride. She goes before the gelding who has the stallion position in my herd and who looks like the undisputed leader of his herd. He is like the stallion in a herd of wild horses with his mares. He leads with kindness, fairness, calmness and clarity and the other herd members respect him. The mare who comes across as the most dominant, certainly at feed time, is not the lead mare of the herd. She is often seen on her own, just a little distanced from the rest of the horses though these days I see her more frequently side by side with one of the other mares or with the little Shetland gelding who she mothered when he was new to the herd. The lead mare is a mare in the middle of the pecking order but when the herd is called from the big pasture they all come as soon as she makes the first move.

*< We all have a unique vibration.
Our life duty is to recover this unique vibration,
this living image of The Holy One.
We can help each other recover this vibration. >*
(from the Aramaic Beatitudes by Neil Donald Klotz)

The horses know who they are and through this inner knowing also feel the interconnectedness with their herd (family), their greater environment (friends, work, community, nature, world) and with Spirit (God). They have a glue which holds them together.

A lot of humans had this 'holding together' weakened through a lack of it in childhood. We have not had the warm embrace and the support to bring all the inner parts together to One Whole.

This is how we can learn and become whole with the horses.

by Beate Maria Sommer
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