



Exploring the Horse-Human Connection: Harmony with Horses

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“The human-horse dyad is the most dominant animal coalition ever witnessed.”

Timothy Winegard, *The Horse: A Galloping History of Humanity*, p.2



“The horses, as subjective beings, fade into the background of a scene organized around techniques and spaces determined by patterns of human work (stables, arenas, and mechanical horse-walkers).

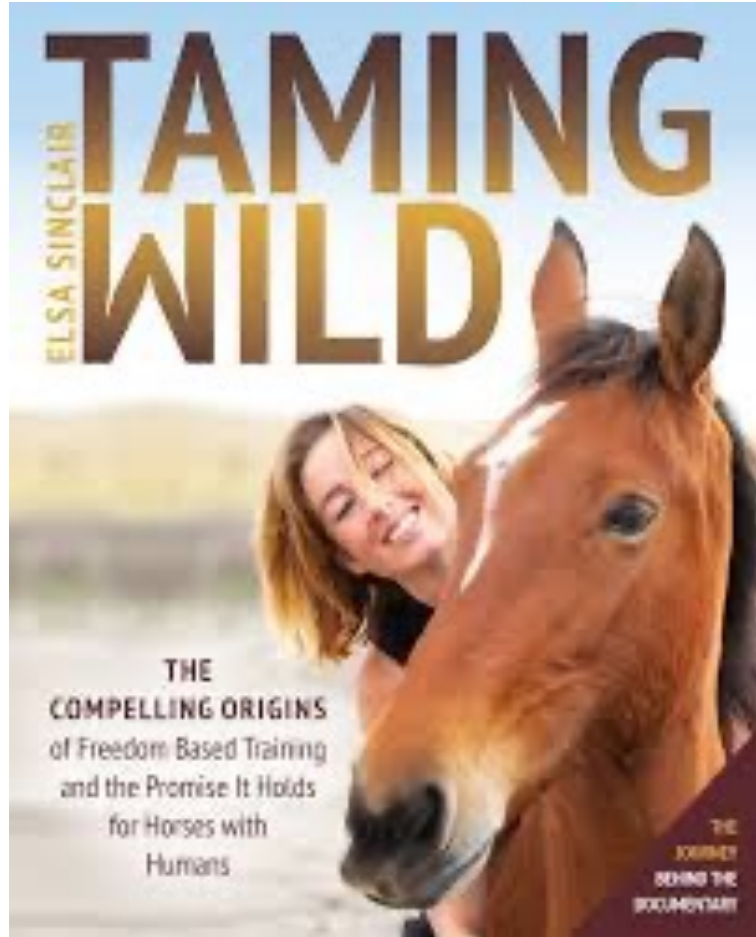
It is not really surprising if horses are sometimes treated with less than respect.”

Linda Birke, “Learning to Speak Horse,” p. 231.



“I lost interest when I found out the patriarchy wasn’t about horses.”

Ken, Barbie



Harmony

“I wanted my vision of peace, harmony, and voluntary cooperation with horses.”

Elsa Sinclair, *Taming Wild*, p. 25.

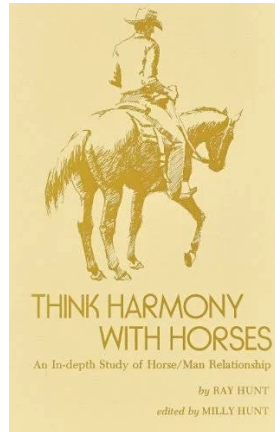
The Journey On Podcast Summit



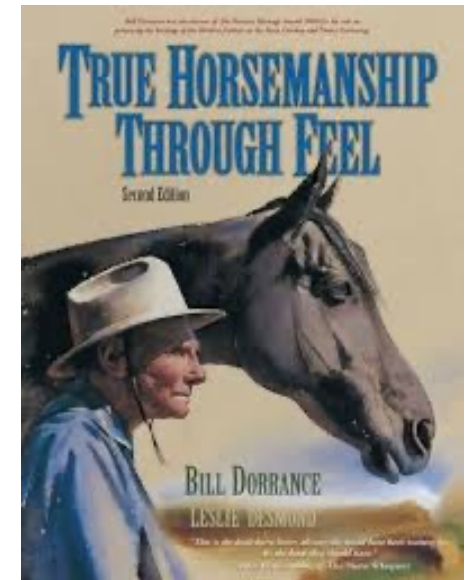
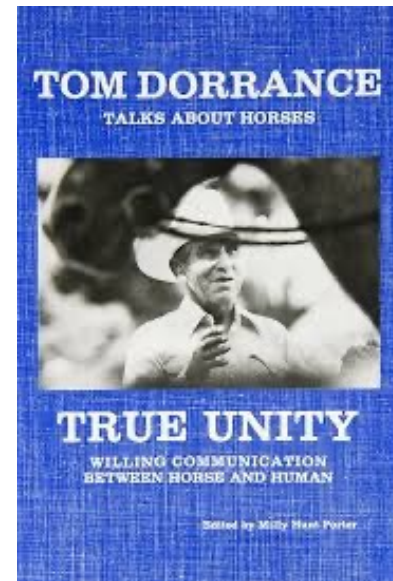
**Warwick
Schiller**



“My goal with the horse is for us to someday be in perfect harmony”

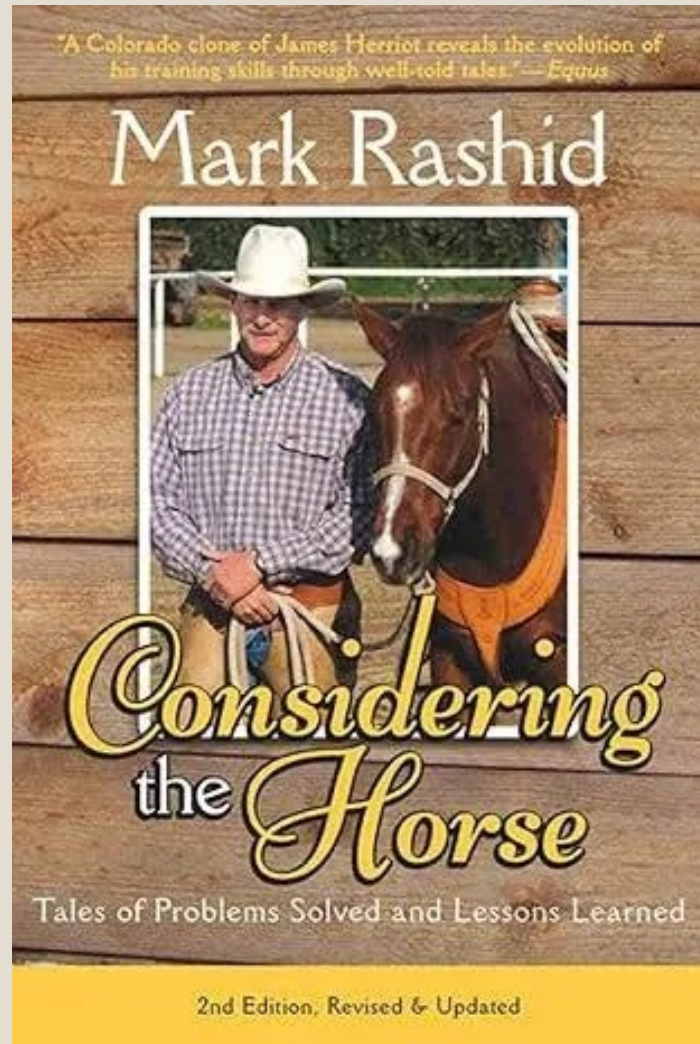


Ray Hunt, *Think Harmony with Horses*, p.8.





M. Rashid



“How do you suppose the horse feels about all of this?”



The task of religion, if such a religion can be said to have a task, is to determine the proper relationship that the people of the tribe must have with other living things and to develop the self-discipline within the tribal community so that [people] act *harmoniously* with other creatures.

Deloria, Jr., *God is Red*, 87, italics added.

V. Deloria, Jr



Barriers to “seeing” the horse

- Dominion-as-Dominance
- Drive to Differentiate
- Dramatic Backdrop



Putting the Horse before Descartes

“The fields of animal assisted therapies are grounded in the Western utilitarian, anthropocentric paradigm in which animals and nature are here to be used as humans see fit.”

Worldview

Matamonasa-Bennett, “Putting the Horse before Descartes,” 24.



“When you look at a rabbit and can see only a pest, or vermin, or a meal, or a commodity, or a laboratory subject, you aren’t seeing the rabbit anymore. You are seeing only yourself and the schemes and appetites we bring to the world.”

Matthew Scully, *Dominion*, 3.



Befriend

Western science needs to alter the way it has thought about animals. In just the past decade we've learned that magpies grieve, prairie dogs can describe through their calls what a predator looks like and whether it has a gun, sheep can remember dozens of faces, and dogs can categorize photographs. Many animals, from rats to wolves to chickens, exhibit signs of empathy and what some argue is a sense of justice...Still others are capable of deep bonds resembling human friendship, even across species, and some mourn their dead.

Sanura Taylor, *Beasts of Burden*, 76.



Two friends with Reba



We **are** nature and are meant to be part of this conversation



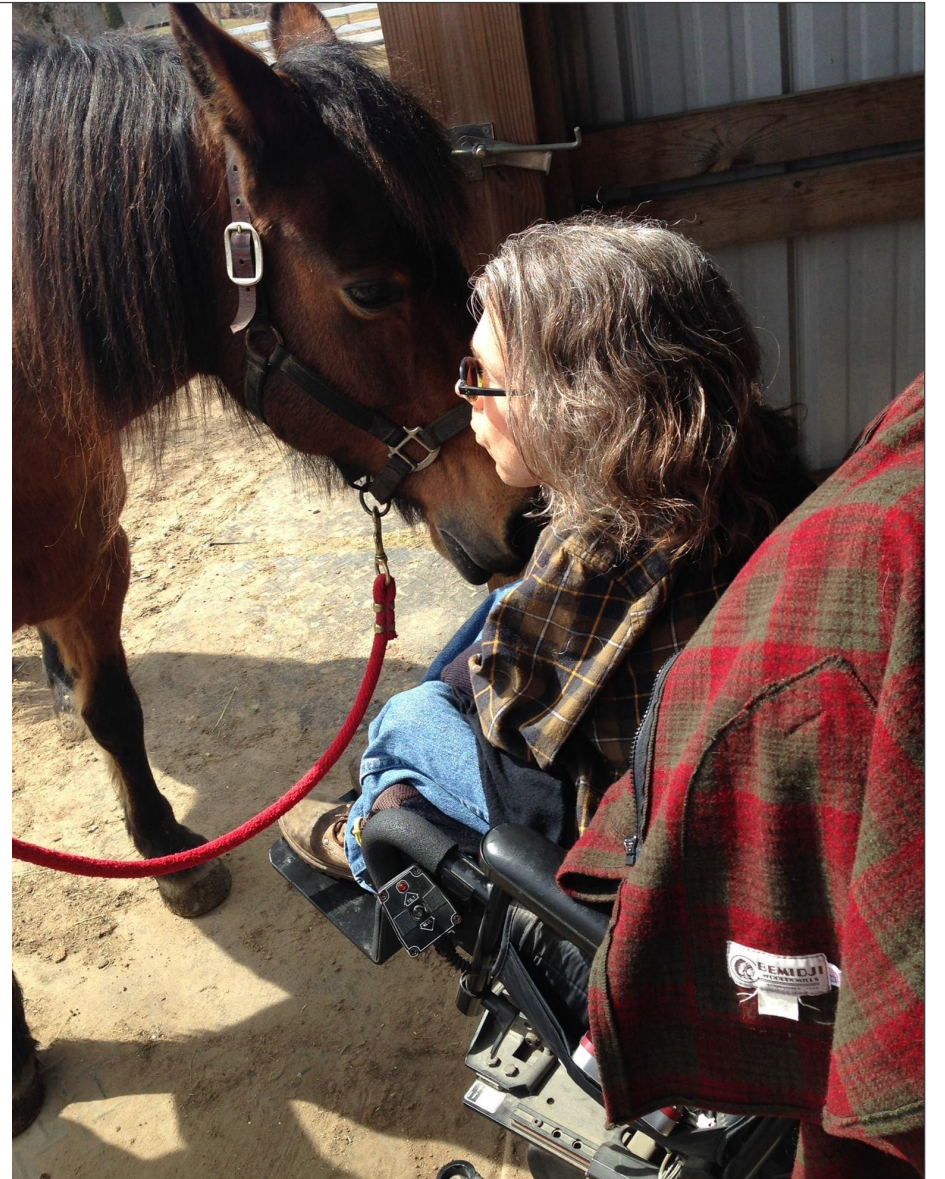
“Mushrooms are the internet of trees”

VOCATION

Does a horse have a vocation?

How are vocation and voice related?

How do we discern the voice of the horse?



Fostering a Habitus of Harmony

Suspend – temporarily withhold judgment

Suspend our desire for tight categories of understanding and our hopeless dependence on our rational minds, and be open to experiential, intuitive, and nonlinear ways of knowing.

Attend – be present to, take part in, or accompany

Attend to how others (especially children) are experiencing creation

Attend to how I am experiencing awe, wonder, and a sense of being connected

Befriend – start a friendship with creation by joining the conversation, showing interest, by “place-sharing.”

Befriend our childlike nature and curiosity

Befriend creation, non-human animals, and plants

“Children see the environment in relational terms, more as kin than object.”



Naturally Inclusive, Ruth Wilson



Awe, Wonder, and a Sense of Being Connected

“Children readily talk to animals, express concern for an animal or plant in distress, and seek comfort in the branches of a tree”

Ruth Wilson,
Naturally Inclusive

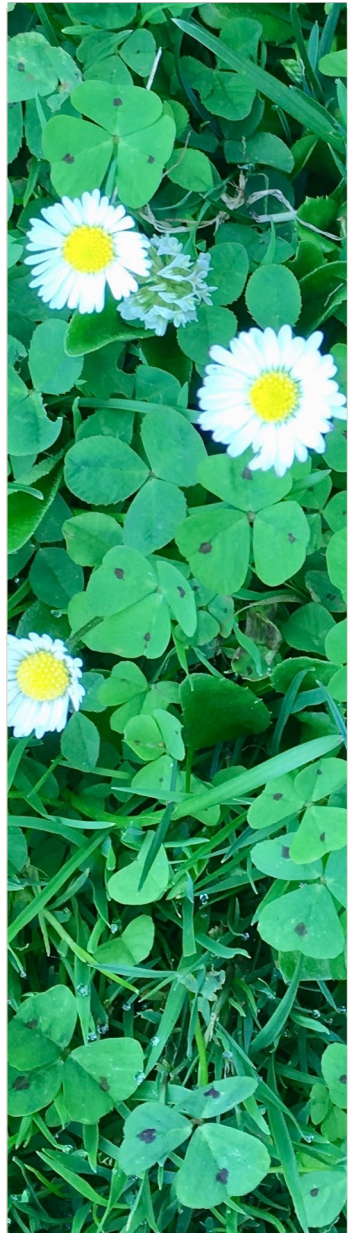
Children are “docents in a world of wonder”

- 🐜 Wonder is for all of us
- 🐜 Wonder is accessible
- 🐜 Wonder is both an emotional response and a way of knowing
- 🐜 Wonder makes everyday encounters revelatory
- 🐜 Wonder fosters humility



Wonder





+  HeartMath[®] Institute
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 **Natural**
LIFEMANSHIP



 **Josh Nichol**
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Resources



***Harmony with Horses:
A Christian Vision for the
Horse-Human Relationship***
Benjamin T. and Melissa Conner

Coming Spring 2027

Cascade Press