

Horse Journeys

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Some people like to stay at home. They don't like to travel, whereas others are hopping on planes, trains and vehicles of all types and heading off on a new adventure all the time.

There is a classic line that I first became aware of in the 70's in a book that promised much about fixing my motorbike until I read it. The line, from memory is 'It's about the journey, not the destination'. The book is called Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance. It was more about Zen (who, as it turns out, was not a motorcycle mechanic) than motorcycles.

What has all this got to do with horses? You may well ask.

Compared to most, I began my 'journey' with horses rather late in life and not too many years ago. I have since met many others who have the equine as a point of commonality. All are on a journey or have been on a journey. And there are some striking differences in these 'journeys' that various people choose.

Some are on a very comfortable, secure and challenge free level. At the other extreme, some are really out there. For example a bloke and a pommie girl just rode horses across Australia. Without shoes on their horses feet too, I might add. 3000+ kilometres. What a journey! Some horsey people compete, some trail ride on Sundays. Some just have them in the paddock as lawnmowers. There is a huge diversity in what kind or type of journey people have with horses.

See 'kind' and 'type' are two different things. To illustrate 'type' let me put forward the following as an example. One could have an outward or inward 'type' of journey. Showing horses would be a simple example of 'outward'. Several people in my favourite horse modality, natural, have spoken to me of their 'inward' journey since practising natural horsemanship. I suspect that they were just that type of person anyway and NH presented itself as a door to the inner.

With apologies to anyone reading this with fundamentalist religious beliefs, I have long defined (one of the many definitions I have) God as Nature. Or Nature as God. Or God is life or a horse. Plus a few more I won't go into because this is an article in a horse publication. See, even the phrase 'natural horsemanship' could be transposed as God horsemanship. Or Good Horsemanship. (Difference of an 'o'). I believe when we make a connection with nature, be it swimming in the ocean, watching a sunset, standing on a high mountain, feeling the wind, watching a wedge tail eagle soar or playing with our horses etc, then we are having a God Moment. Or if you don't like the term "God" then, a spiritual moment (and if you don't like the term 'spiritual' then you may be better off reading the Telegraph or watching telly rather than reading Neva Say Neva). If we have more of these special moments today than we did yesterday, one could say that one was on a journey. A journey within.

That probably explains why Natural Horsemanship only appeals to some. Here we are with the key to a great relationship with horses (and potentially all life) and we want everyone to experience it because it is SO GOOD! But some others just ain't into that kind of journey. Their comfort zone is a nice place for them to be and that's where they are staying. Their comfort zone is like a belief system. Can't change it till they want to. I guess we have all been a bit like that at

sometime in our lives. Try telling a Liberal or Labour supporter that the Greens have some good ideas. Ha! Don't waste your breath.

Save your energy for the next exciting instalment in your journey with your horse.

May The Horse Be With You!

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The other thing is focus. I now see why there are 'normals' out there. They exist to divert our focus from our goal. What they do is 'right' for themselves (and believe it or not, their horse). Because in the grand scheme, there is no 'wrong'. Everything that happens everywhere, all the time, happens for a very good reason. It's all about learning or remembering. Each and everyone of us is on a journey. To say that someone else's journey is 'wrong' is - simply wrong. But there is no such thing as wrong. One of the great dichotomies.

So if 'normals' divert us from our goal, they have succeeded in moving OUR feet. And you know what that means. Or another slant on this type of 'opposite' experience is that once we decide about who we are and where we are going, the universe throws at us all the opposites it can muster. Why? To remind us of who we are and where we are going by contrasting it. We can't appreciate white unless there is black. We can appreciate who we are and where we are going by having the opposite experience.