



The sacred Morning Star, who stands between the darkness and the light, represents knowledge.

Black Elk, Lakota. <sup>47</sup>

I may pray with words, and the prayer will be heard, but if I sing my prayer it will be heard *sooner* by *Wakan Tanka*.

Red Weasel, Lakota. 48

Everything as it moves, now and then, here and there, makes stops. The bird as it flies stops in one place to make its nest, and in another to rest in its flight. A man when he goes forth stops when he will. So God has stopped. The sun, which is so bright and beautiful, is one place where he has stopped. The moon, the stars, the winds he has been with. The trees, the animals, are all where he has stopped, and we think about these places and send our prayers to reach the place where God has stopped, to win help and a blessing.

Lakota. 49



*Look!*  
*Prancing, they come,*  
*Neighing, they come.*  
*A Horse Nation!*

*Look!*  
*Prancing, they come,*  
*Neighing, they come.*

Two Shields, Lakota. 50

*Daybreak appears*  
*When a horse neighs.*

Brave Buffalo, Lakota. 51

*Friend*  
*My horse*  
*Flies like a bird*  
*As it runs.*

Brave Buffalo, Lakota. 52

*The four winds are blowing,*  
*Horses are coming.*

Brave Buffalo, Lakota. 53

**HORSES WERE HELD IN THE HIGHEST ESTEEM.** Brave Buffalo, Lakota, said: *Of all the animals the horse is the Indian's best friend, for without it he could not go on long journeys. A horse is the Indian's most valuable possession.*

Horses were not merely practical possessions, but gifts from the Sky World, having starlight in their eyes and thunder in their hooves, lightning in their legs, and manes and tails, swirling clouds.

Plenty Coups, Absaroke: *To be alone with my war horse teaches him to understand me and I to understand him. If he is to carry me in battle he must know my heart and I must know his or we shall never become brothers. I have been told that the white man does not believe that the horse has a soul. This cannot be true. I have many times seen my horse's soul in his eyes.*

When Siyaka, Lakota, was in danger he stood in front of his horse, and holding its head, said: *We are in danger. Obey me promptly that we may conquer. If you have to run for your life and mine, do your best, and if we reach home I will give you the best eagle feather I can get and a strip of the finest red cloth, and you shall be painted with the best paint.*

Strips of red cloth were tied to the tail or around the neck. Horses wore these, together with eagle feathers and painted symbols, like medals for everyone to see. 54

