

Klaus Ferdinand Hempfling

The world's climate is changing on more than one level. People are becoming increasingly interested in doing things holistically, in taking into consideration the whole, not just their part; in not partaking of practices that have a detrimental on-flow.

We are taking responsibility for our own actions and lives and in doing so we bring a greater sense of independence and well-being. Just getting to our destination is no longer satisfactory; now the journey counts for more than the end results.

In finding his own inner peace, Klaus Ferdinand Hempfling came to recognise that

horse had a lot to say on the subject and he would do well to listen to them. All the equine masters down through history had trodden the same path; in finding peace with horse, he found peace with himself.

To work with different species we must first learn how the members of that species interact with each other and with their environment. Klaus teaches us the roles of the mares, particularly the lead mare, and of the stallion. To communicate effectively with horse we must first appreciate these important roles and how the rest of the herd reacts to them.

Klaus then teaches us how to communicate as a horse—when we should communicate as a lead mare and when we should take the stallion role. This is where we must begin to be totally honest with ourselves. The horse is a master of body language and it is impossible to lie to a horse. A horse will not respond positively when we ask him to do something that in our heart we don't want him to do. Whatever the horse does is a perfect

reflective of who we are.

Once we have grasped these fundamental laws, we are ready to learn that in

understanding the different natures of horse we can more effectively communicate with them. Communication may be the wrong word here as the horse is already receiving and transmitting, but mostly this transmission falls on deaf ears. Klaus' work shows us how to open our ears, how to listen to horse.

It is not a new concept that personality is reflected in physical characteristics. Facial analysis, hair analysis, reflexology and iridology are just a few examples of this idea. However, Klaus' differential diagnosis is one of the first for horses and is deeper than anything that has gone before. He has divided all horse personalities into twenty-six groups. That doesn't mean that there are only twenty-six different types as one horse has exhibited traits from two or more types.

The types are recognised by physical characteristics, such as the size of the ears, the expression in the eye, the shape of the nose, the tension (or lack of) in the mouth, the slope of the shoulder or the curve of the spine. But Klaus is quick to point out that the sum total of the physical characteristics should give the feel of the horse's type. This is an art!

Once we know the personality of our horse then we can better understand how to approach him and how to ask; and of his capabilities.

Although breeds do tend to share similar characteristics, Klaus feels it is important not to stereo-type



but to remain open to each horse's individuality. Klaus has admirably demonstrated the willing nature of horses; how they are very keen to work with us but they need sensitivity and respect just as we do. If someone demands us to take an action, what is our first inner reaction? Resistance!

And so it is with horses. When a horse comes before Klaus for the first time he instantly recognises his Story; his personality, his past, his relationship with humans and other horses and his inner state. It doesn't matter to Klaus if the horse habitually kicks, bites, rears or bucks. He understands why the horse reacts that way.

This shows him how to proceed, how to communicate to the horse that now there isn't a reason to act this way. And so they never exhibit these behaviours with him. He is able to communicate to the horse that this human understands him, respects him and wishes to play-work with him. He invites the horse to enjoy their interaction. Working with horses using Klaus' methods, not only offers us the potential for a close relationship with horse, it also offers us the key to unlock our inner depths, our intuition, and our spirituality, to find our purpose, our peace.

