



Crazy Horse

The Story

"A VERY GREAT VISION IS NEEDED AND THE MAN WHO HAS IT MUST FOLLOW IT AS THE EAGLE SEEKS THE DEEPEST BLUE OF THE SKY. I WAS HOSTILE TO THE WHITE MAN...WE PREFERRED HUNTING TO A LIFE OF IDLENESS ON OUR RESERVATIONS. AT TIMES WE DID NOT GET ENOUGH TO EAT AND WE WERE NOT ALLOWED TO HUNT. ALL WE WANTED WAS PEACE AND TO BE LEFT ALONE. SOLDIERS CAME AND DESTROYED OUR VILLAGES. THEN LONG HAIR (CUSTER) CAME...THEY SAY WE MASSACRED HIM, BUT HE WOULD HAVE DONE THE SAME TO US. OUR FIRST IMPULSE WAS TO ESCAPE BUT WE WERE SO HEMMED IN WE HAD TO FIGHT."

TASHUNKEWITKO THE BIRTH NAME OF CRAZY HORSE WAS BORN IN 1845 AT THE REPUBLICAN RIVER. HE WAS KILLED AT FORT ROBINSON, NEBRASKA, HE LIVED A SHORT LIFE BUT IN THAT TIME HE ACHIEVED SO MUCH AS A WARRIOR AND CHIEF HE LIVED BARELY 33YRS OF HIS LIFE.

CRAZY HORSE WAS AN UNCOMMONLY HANDSOME MAN, HE WAS A PERFECTLY BUILT FOR HIS WARRIOR LIFESTYLE. CRAZY HORSE WAS A TRUE SIOUX INDIAN HE HAD SUCH GRACE AND REFINEMENT. HE WAS A COURTEOUS, MODEST AND A BORN WARRIOR. HE WAS TRUE WARRIOR AND BRAVE, WHICH WAS HARD TO MATCH, ALTHOUGH A FIERCE WARRIOR HE WAS A GENTLE ONE HE WAS THE HIGHEST IDEAL OF THE SIOUX TRIBE.

THE CHILDHOOD OF CRAZY HORSE PASSED WHEN A WESTERN SIOUX SAW A WHITE MAN CROSSING THE PLAINS. THE SIOUX TRIBE PRIDED THEMSELVES IN THE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR OWN CHILDREN. FIRST STEP FIRST WORD FIRST GAME KILL AND FIRST ATTAINMENT OF MANHOOD CALLED FOR A CELEBRATION IN THE HONOUR OF THE PARENTS AND THE CHILD.



CRAZY HORSE WAS A KIND AND CARING YOUNGSTER. ONCE WHEN HE WAS A BOUT 5-6 THERE WAS A GREAT STORM AND THERE WAS HARDLY ANY MEAT AND CRAZY HORSE INVITED THE PEOPLE TO HIS TIPI TO EAT WITH OUT HIS MOTHER OR FATHERS CONSENT

AS CRAZY HORSE GOT OLDER PEOPLE RECOGNISED THE BRAVERY OF THE YOUNG WARRIOR AS HE HAD RISKED HIS LIFE MANY TIMES. IN THE BATTLE AGAINST THE GROS VENTRE HIS FRIEND FELL OF THE HORSE AND CRAZY HORSE CIRCLED AROUND HIS FRIEND DODGING THE ARROWS SWOOPED DOWN AND PICKED UP HIS FRIEND AND RODE AWAY ALTHOUGH BEING IN FIRED AT BY THERE ENEMY. AT TIMES OF TROUBLE CRAZY HORSE ROSE TO THE OCCASION, HE WAS A

NATURAL LEADER AND A PERFECT WARRIOR. HE NEVER HAD ANY CONFLICT WITH THE WHITES, AS THERE WAS NO COUP INVOLVED IN KILLING A WHITE MAN/WOMAN OR SCALPING THEM.

YOUNG CRAZY HORSE WAS TWENTY-ONE YEARS OLD WHEN ALL THE TETON SIOUX CHIEFS (THE WESTERN OR PLAINS DWELLERS) MET IN COUNCIL TO DETERMINE UPON THEIR FUTURE POLICY TOWARD THE INVADER. THEIR FORMER AGREEMENTS HAD BEEN BY INDIVIDUAL BANDS, EACH FOR ITSELF, AND EVERY ONE WAS FRIENDLY. THEY REASONED THAT THE COUNTRY WAS WIDE, AND THAT THE WHITE TRADERS SHOULD BE MADE WELCOME. UP TO THIS TIME THEY HAD ANTICIPATED NO CONFLICT. THEY HAD PERMITTED THE OREGON TRAIL, BUT NOW TO THEIR ASTONISHMENT FORTS WERE BUILT AND GARRISONED IN THEIR TERRITORY

MOST CHIEFS WANTED A STRONG RESISTANCE. MEN WHO WANT A NEW PEACE TREATY WERE WHITE BULL, TWO KETTLE, FOUR BEAR AND SWIFT BEAR. IN 1866 THE GREAT PEACE CHIEF SAID THEY ARE TO PROTECT THEIR RIGHTS AND TERRITORIES BY FORCE. CRAZY HORSE TOOK NO PART BUT AGREED WITH THE COUNCIL. YOUNGER HUMP, CHARGING BEAR, SPOTTED ELK, CROW KING, NO WATER, BIG ROAD, HE DOG, NEPHEW OF RED CLOUD AND TOUCH-THE-CLOUD WERE INTIMATE FRIENDS OF CRAZY HORSE WHO ALSO AGREED WITH THE COUNCIL.

AT THE FORT PHIL KEANEY CRAZY HOSE WAS CHOSEN TO LEAD THE ATTACK AGAINST THE WOODCHOPPERS. THE STRATEGY WAS TO DRAW OUT THE ENEMY THEN 600 SIOUX WARRIORS WOULD ATTACK, THIS SUCCEEDED AS CRAZY HORSE HAD A LOT OF RESPECT FROM HIS MEN SO HE HAD GOOD CONTROL OVER THERE ACTIONS. SITTING BULL AND THE CHEYENNE CHIEFS ADMIRED HIM,



STATUE OF CRAZY HORSE

ON THE 25 JUNE 1876 CRAZY HORSE WAS WATCHING A GAME OF RING TOSS WHEN A WARNING ALARM OF.

SIOUX AND CHEYENNE WERE 'MINUTE MEN' (READY FOR EVERY THING). EVEN THOUGH TAKEN BY SURPRISE THEY SHOT UP AND GOT THERE FAVOURITE HORSE AND WENT TO FIGHT. WOMEN AND CHILDREN WERE CONFUSED AS IT ALL HAPPENED SO FAST; OLD MEN SANG LODGE SONGS TO ENCOURAGE THE WARRIORS AND

CRAZY HORSE.

GENERAL CUSTER THOUGHT OF AN ATTACK WHERE BOTH SIDES OF THE CAMP WERE ATTACKED AT THE SAME TIME HOPPING THAT HE WOULD WORK HIS WAY INTO THE MIDDLE. BUT CRAZY HORSE HAD SEEN THIS SO HE WENT TO INTERCEPT CUSTER. IN 1 MINUTE CRAZY HORSE WAS TO OUT SMART CUSTER WHO WAS ONE OF THE MOST BRILLIANT LEADERS IN THE CIVIL WAR, CUSTER'S MILITARY CAREER AND LIFE WAS ABOUT TO END.

HERE WAS CRAZY HORSE'S MOST FAMOUS BATTLE HE AND HIS WARRIORS THOUGHT TO EVERY SINGLE WHITE MAN WAS KILLED.

INDIANS IN RESERVATIONS WANTED CRAZY HORSE TO COME TO FORT ROBINSON BUT HE REFUSED. IN 1877 THERE WAS HARDLY ANY BUFFALO LEFT SO HE WAS FORCED TO GO TO FORT ROBINSON, NEBRASKA. WHERE THEY WOULD RECEIVE FOOD AND WATER.

HIS WIFE WAS CRITICALLY ILL AT THE TIME, AND HE DECIDED TO TAKE HER TO HER PARENTS AT SPOTTED TAIL AGENCY, WHEREUPON HIS ENEMIES CIRCULATED THE STORY THAT HE HAD FLED, AND A PARTY OF SCOUTS WAS SENT AFTER HIM. THEY OVERTOOK HIM RIDING WITH HIS WIFE AND ONE OTHER BUT DID NOT UNDERTAKE TO ARREST HIM, AND AFTER HE HAD LEFT THE SICK WOMAN WITH HER PEOPLE HE WENT TO CALL ON CAPTAIN LEA, THE AGENT FOR THE BRULES, ACCOMPANIED BY ALL THE WARRIORS OF THE MINNECONWOJU BAND. THIS VOLUNTEER ESCORT MADE AN IMPOSING APPEARANCE ON HORSEBACK, SHOUTING AND SINGING, AND IN THE WORDS OF CAPTAIN LEA HIMSELF AND THE MISSIONARY, THE REVEREND MR. CLEVELAND, THE SITUATION WAS EXTREMELY CRITICAL. INDEED, THE SCOUTS WHO HAD FOLLOWED CRAZY HORSE FROM RED CLOUD AGENCY WERE ADVISED NOT TO SHOW THEMSELVES, AS SOME OF THE WARRIORS HAD URGED THAT THEY BE TAKEN OUT AND HORSEWHIPPED PUBLICLY. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES CRAZY HORSE AGAIN SHOWED HIS MASTERFUL SPIRIT BY HOLDING THESE YOUNG MEN IN CHECK. HE SAID TO THEM IN HIS QUIET WAY: "IT IS WELL TO BE BRAVE IN THE FIELD OF BATTLE; IT IS COWARDLY TO DISPLAY BRAVERY AGAINST ONE'S OWN TRIBESMEN. THESE SCOUTS HAVE BEEN COMPELLED TO DO WHAT THEY DID; THEY ARE NO BETTER THAN SERVANTS OF THE WHITE OFFICERS. I CAME HERE ON A PEACEFUL ERRAND.



WHEN HE REACHED THE MILITARY CAMP, LITTLE BIG MAN WALKED ARM-IN-ARM WITH HIM, AND HIS COUSIN AND FRIEND, TOUCH-THE-CLOUD, WAS JUST IN ADVANCE. AFTER THEY PASSED THE SENTINEL, AN OFFICER APPROACHED THEM AND WALKED ON HIS OTHER SIDE. HE WAS UNARMED BUT FOR THE KNIFE WHICH IS CARRIED FOR ORDINARY USES BY WOMEN AS WELL AS MEN. UNSUSPECTINGLY HE WALKED TOWARD THE GUARDHOUSE, WHEN TOUCH-THE-CLOUD SUDDENLY TURNED BACK EXCLAIMING: "COUSIN, THEY WILL PUT YOU IN PRISON!"

"ANOTHER WHITE MAN'S TRICK! LET ME GO! LET ME DIE FIGHTING!" CRIED CRAZY HORSE. HE STOPPED AND TRIED TO FREE HIMSELF AND DRAW HIS KNIFE, BUT BOTH ARMS WERE HELD FAST BY LITTLE BIG MAN AND THE OFFICER. WHILE HE STRUGGLED THUS, A SOLDIER THRUST HIM THROUGH WITH HIS BAYONET FROM BEHIND. THE WOUND WAS MORTAL, AND HE DIED IN THE COURSE OF THAT NIGHT, HIS OLD FATHER SINGING THE DEATH SONG OVER HIM AND AFTERWARD CARRYING AWAY THE BODY, WHICH THEY SAID MUST NOT BE FURTHER POLLUTED BY THE TOUCH OF A WHITE MAN. THEY HID IT SOMEWHERE IN THE BAD LANDS, HIS RESTING PLACE TO THIS DAY"

by

Matthew fairhurst

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