

Chapter 16 Boje Story of Nahdion Horsesense Will To Serve



Nahdion

STORY TOLD IN THREE SCENES

SCENE 1: The backache

David: “I have a backache. It’s from pulling luggage in and out of cars. I felt when I came back from this last trip.”

Grace Ann: (at her desk, at home, without turning around) “I am picking up that Nahdion (our Arabian stallion) can fix this for you.”

SCENE 1: The Cure

Nahdion: (he is in his stall, in the barn, and as I come into his stall, he comes in from his pasture).

David: (to myself) ‘I will not say anything to Nahdion. I will just turn my back to him, not give him any cues, and see if he finds the exact spot where my back aches, and see if he tunes into my pain.’

Nahdion: (he struts about behind me loudly, snorting, and kicking his hooves. I hear him approach, and can feel his breath on my neck. His full forehead, which is huge by human

standards, aims not for the back, but for the side, and he lights upon the exact spot where I am hurting. He proceeds to give me a deep tissue kind of massage, and he continues for a long time. If you know horses, you know that some do rub on you, more to satisfy their own itch. But this I can assure you is not that sort of rubbing. His massage is so vigorous; I am lifted off the ground, and have to hold the stall bars with both hands to remain upright.)

SCENE 3: Falling action – pain gone

Grace Ann: (back in the house) “How did it go?”

David: “I feel better. The pain, in his muscle on my side, is almost gone. In fact, I don’t feel pain any longer. How did Nahdion know where to rub and what to do?”

Grace Ann: “Horses sense these things. They tune into the body, and they just know.”

THREE APPLICATIONS TO THIS CHAPTER

1. Horse Island is named for Nahdion. Nahdion has horsepower. He is about 27 years old, and the alpha male of the barn. He has never backed down from a horse challenge. He and his son, play fight and bite one another, drawing blood. Yet, Nahdion, with me, is gentle, and is respectful, does not horse bite me, even when I put on the fly spray, or rub near his face (which he hates). Horses are more physically powerful than humans. His will to power is extremely apparent.
2. Horse Island is also about the will to serve. I have seen many occasions, with humans and horses, where Nahdion serves. He serves as guardian for his mare (Rowan). He serves as power trainer for his son, Annhad. His will to serve, was evident in the story, in how he massaged my back.
3. Horsesense is a theory by Grace Ann Rosile. As I understand it, horsesense is a special way horses have of tuning into the energy of other’s bodies. It’s a kind of body energeia. Some people have this communicative power with horses, and horses with them. You may have experienced it with cats or dogs if you own and love one. Yet, it is possible, and some neuroscience supports it, that beyond the five senses (hear, sight, touch, smell, & taste), there are other senses, that allow animals to tune in to such energies as magnetic, radiation, and frequencies our 5 senses do not register. These could be other senses, sensemaking beyond the five empiric (perceptual) ones. People may have horsesense. For example, when a sailor has seasense, or a printer has printer’s eye for design and layout, or a teacher a teacher’s sense for who is prepared or not to speak, or an actor’s sense of where they are on stage and the timing of other actors even when they flub their lines and miss their stage cues. There is this tuning in to energies that are in

the world of beings around us, that people who live closer to nature than city folks have, that perhaps are senses the ranchers and farmers have that others have lost.¹

Figure 1 contrasts two of three dimensions of our (in the box) model of leadership. Keep in mind our aim is to get out of the box. On the X dimensions, the leader is either transactional or transformational. On the Y dimension, they possess either a will to power or a will to serve. My assumption is that leadership theory has moved away from will to serve, and restricts its sights on will to power. Princes and supermen/superwomen are not popular characters, yet they seem to be everywhere. Machiavelli was quite definite about the will to power of princes.

¹ For more on horsesense see <http://horsesenseatwork.com> or see my intro chapter on horsesense (in relation to 8 types of sensemaking) at <http://storytellingorganization.com>