

## THE LEGEND OF THE PIPE

*A Sioux Legend:*

*As Told By Carolyn Miller - Schulz AKA "Singletree"*



One day a beautiful woman appeared to two scouts searching for buffalo. So lovely and shining was her face, so perfect her figure, that they were entranced. As they beheld her, she said to them, "I am of the Buffalo People, I have been sent to this earth with an important message for your people.

Return to your leader and have him set up a council tipi in the center of the village. Behind the fireplace

of the tipi, soften the earth and shape it to form a square, behind the square, place a buffalo skull and behind the skull place a small rack, I shall arrive at dawn". When one of the men, struck by her beauty, attempted to seduce her, a clap of thunder was heard and a cloud enveloped them. When the cloud vanished, the woman stood untouched while at her feet lay the skeleton of the foolish one. She bade the remaining scout to return to the village with her message. The scout told the Headman what he had witnessed and gave him the message as he had been instructed.

The people were excited by so mysterious a visitor and all the preparations were made according to her instruction. At daybreak the people gathered to await her arrival. As the sun rose from the East, the woman in white appeared carrying a pipe in her right hand. She entered the council tipi and seated herself in the place of honor. The leader welcomed her, saying how fortunate they were that Wakan Tanka had sent this beautiful woman to be their sister.

Holding the pipe aloft she arose and told them that the Wakan Tanka were greatly pleased with the Sioux and as a representative of the Buffalo People, she was proud to be their sister. Because they had been faithful and reverent and preserved good over evil and harmony over discord, the Sioux had been chosen to receive the Pipe on behalf of all mankind. The pipe was a symbol of peace to be used between men and nations. Smoking the pipe was a bond of good faith and a Shaman smoking the pipe would be in communion with the Wakan Tanka.

Turning to her sisters she said "You bear great sorrow, yet you comfort others in time of trouble or grief, by bearing children, clothing and feeding them and by being good and faithful wives you maintain the family..the family is blessed in the eyes of the Wakan Tanka. The Wakan Tanka have planned it so and are there with you in your time of need." Then she told the children to respect their parents who love them and make many sacrifices for them. She then reminded the men that all things upon which they depend are gifts from the Earth, Sky and Four Winds and that they were to use the pipe daily for offerings and prayers to the Wakan Tanka for their blessings. She reminded them to be kind and loving to women and children for they are weak, but beloved of Wakan Tanka. Finally she told the leader that through the pipe the nation lived. It was a sacred instrument to be used for prayer and in time of need.

She stayed with them for four days, teaching and visiting, then she told the leader that the Wakan Tanka were pleased with the way that he had conducted the meeting and that she was honored to be his sister. Then taking a buffalo chip she lit the pipe and offered it first to Sky, then to Earth, then to Four Winds, and after they had smoked, she announced that her mission was finished, arose and left the tipi. Walking slowly, she left the village and as everyone watched, she was transformed into a white buffalo calf. All knew her as the Beautiful One, the daughter of the Sun and the Moon..but to the Shamans, she was Whope....The Peace Giver.