

## Chapter 30 - Bison - Native West - The Native Americas' People

A fact that can't be denied, is my works allignment with some of the better known aspects of Native American Spirituality. What I would call the Holy Spirit or Ghost, Native Americans would call the Great Spirit. I use animals as virtue and people references and archetypes. Many of their myths and legends mirror a type of historic and prophecy laced account of past and future, using animals, Mother Earth, water, and sky, same as the Divine was having me do.

As I collected books on their legends, I found some that even seemed to discribe what I am doing, now.

My soul want's nothing more than to learn from them. I wish a door would open, where some of them could fill me in on what I'm missing or mistaken about.

The spirit of the bison rises and whispers to humanity bring the people of the Native West respect.

Symbolism and Nature of the Bison The bison, now my symbol for respect, echoed Proverbs chapter 21, verse 21, reminding me that righteousness and mercy lead to life, honor, and strength. It stood as a beacon of bravery,

kindness, and inner strength—a guardian against the allure of earthly desires.



As the bison journeyed alongside me, it whispered lessons of gratitude and staying true to oneself. It served as a reminder that life's gifts should be honored, and that redemption could be found by exploring every facet of the lessons learned.

The bison, with its massive form and enduring spirit, embodies the virtue of respect in a profound and ancient

way. As a creature of the plains, the bison moves with a deliberate and measured pace, reminding us that respect is not hurried but earned over time. The bison respects the earth beneath its hooves, grazing in a way that allows the land to renew itself. It carries with it the wisdom of cycles, the balance of giving and taking, and the strength to endure the harshest winters.

The bison is a powerful symbol of respect, strength, and resilience. As one of the most majestic and enduring creatures of the plains, the bison embodies the balance between power and humility. It moves with a quiet strength, using its massive frame not to dominate but to coexist with the land.

The bison is a reminder that true respect comes from understanding one's place in the natural order, honoring the earth, and walking with integrity. In many cultures, particularly among Native American traditions, the bison is considered sacred. It symbolizes abundance, gratitude, and the interconnectedness of all life. The bison's presence in the plains supported entire ecosystems, providing food, clothing, and shelter to those who honored it. The people who lived alongside the bison showed respect by using every part of the animal and giving thanks for its sacrifice.

This relationship was a sacred contract of mutual respect and sustainability. In nature, the bison is both gentle and formidable. It grazes peacefully, nurturing the land by aerating the soil and spreading seeds through its movement. Yet, when threatened, the bison can charge with incredible force, reminding us that respect is not about weakness but about knowing when to stand your ground.

The bison's migratory patterns also speak to its strength and resilience. It moves with the seasons, trusting in the cycles of nature and adapting to the changing environment. This adaptability is a natural demonstration of respect—respect for the land, the seasons, and the needs of the herd. The bison teaches us to honor the cycles of life, to move with purpose, and to stand firm when needed.

**Spiritual Significance of the Bison:** Respect Spiritually, the bison stands for respect, showing us how to live with honor and gratitude. The bison's path is a sacred walk, one that does not take more than needed and always gives back to the earth. It embodies the principle of reciprocity—the idea that what we take must be balanced by what we give.

In my spiritual framework, the bison teaches that respect is not just an outward act but an inner state. It is about respecting oneself, respecting others, and respecting the spirit that connects all living things. When we channel the

spirit of the bison, we walk with dignity, we honor our commitments, and we create a legacy of balance and respect for generations to come.

HOW (The Holy Spirit) and the Bison In the theology of WHO, YOU, HOW, and LAWHO, the bison aligns with the spirit of HOW, the Holy Spirit, for respect is a form of sacred energy. It is the gentle whisper in the wind, the soft nudge of conscience that guides us to honor what is before us. When we respect others, we channel the spirit of HOW, bringing harmony to our relationships and peace to our inner world.

YOU (The Earth Goddess) The bison also mirrors the earth goddess YOU, as it thrives in unity with its herd. It shows us that respect is not just an inward feeling but an outward practice of acknowledging others' worth. When we respect others, we acknowledge their divinity as YOU, a part of the collective whole.

WHO (The Sun God) and the Bison In the presence of WHO, the sun god, the bison stands as a reminder of bearing, of keeping our direction with a quiet strength. It teaches us that true respect is unwavering, like the sun's light, consistent and without judgment.

LAW-HO (The Moon God) and the Bison The moon god, LAWHO, shines a softer light on respect. The bison's calm demeanor under the night sky teaches us to respect the

quiet, to listen in silence, and to find strength in stillness. It reminds us that respect is not just in grand gestures but in small, everyday actions.

When might a person need to channel the spirit of the bison? In times of conflict, when emotions run high, and respect is in danger of being lost. When patience is tested, and understanding is required. When standing before elders, traditions, or sacred spaces, the bison's spirit reminds us to bow inwardly, to tread lightly, and to honor what has come before us. It is a reminder to move with purpose, to offer respect not as a debt but as a gift, freely given and deeply felt.

### A Proverb for the Bison: Respect

There is a quiet strength in the bison, a strength that doesn't shout, doesn't chase, doesn't need to prove itself. It stands where it has always stood, beside the people who walked this land first. The Native America's People should never have needed to demand respect, they embodied it.

Because true respect should be given at the start. Not earned, not fought for, given. And the great herds of this continent, like its first people, were born already carrying it. The bison does not need to reclaim respect. It only needs to remember that its dignity was never lost.

Respect is something you shouldn't have to fight for, it's something you hold to by walking in strength, by walking in patience, by walking as if the ground itself never forgot you. Respect is not in the words we speak, but the footprints we leave behind.

A Parable of the Bison and the People Long ago, on the open plains where the grass danced with the wind, there lived a great herd of bison. They moved like shadows across the earth, their presence a gift to the land and to the people who lived alongside them. The bison gave their flesh for food, their hides for warmth, and their bones for tools, offering everything they had without hesitation.

The people who lived on the plains understood this sacred gift. They did not see the bison as mere animals but as brothers and teachers. Before a hunt, the elders would gather, offering prayers and burning sweetgrass, asking for the bison's blessing. The hunters moved with reverence, taking only what was needed and using every part of the bison with respect.

One winter, when the snow lay thick and food grew scarce, a young hunter became impatient. "Why do we wait and pray when the bison roam so near?" he asked. "We could take more now and store it for ourselves."

The elder shook his head. "The bison are not ours to take but ours to honor. If we break this balance, the spirit of respect will leave us, and the land will mourn."

But the young hunter did not listen. He led a group to take more than needed, leaving behind waste and shadows. The herd moved away, their hoofbeats a distant thunder, and the land began to change. The grass grew thin, the rivers quieted, and the spirit of the plains felt hollow.

In time, the young hunter understood his mistake. He went to the elders, asking how to make amends. They told him to walk to the herd, not as a hunter but as a student. He approached the bison with empty hands, sat among them, and listened. He learned the ways of respect—not by taking but by giving, not by force but by love.

When he returned, the bison followed. Balance was restored, and the young hunter became an elder, teaching that respect is not in the hunt but in the harmony between giving and receiving. The herd and the people thrived, each honoring the spirit of the other, living as one under the vast and watchful sky.

Personal Story: The Bison Respect has always been a complex idea for me. I know it's something everyone deserves, but I also understand that keeping respect is not as simple as earning it once and holding onto it forever.

Respect is like a thread that connects us to each other, but it can fray if not cared for properly.

I think of the bison, how it moves through the plains with a quiet strength. It doesn't demand respect, but it carries itself in a way that naturally earns it. That's the kind of respect I want to embody, not something forced or taken, but something that comes from living with integrity and intention.

I know I haven't always been that way. There have been times when I've let myself down, when I've acted in ways that didn't deserve respect. But part of my journey is about recognizing that and finding a way to rebuild that thread.

I've always believed that love is earned through actions, through showing up and being there for the people you care about. But respect feels different. It's something you give freely to others, but you have to maintain it through consistency and honesty. It's not about being perfect; it's about being real, about showing up as who you are and doing your best to honor the promises you make.

I'm still working on it. I'm learning how to respect myself, to hold myself accountable, and to live in a way that reflects my values. I'm trying to find the balance between respecting others and not losing myself in the process.

It's a path I'm still walking, and maybe that's okay. The bison doesn't rush, it moves at its own pace, strong and steady. That's what I'm aiming for—to move through life with the same quiet strength, to offer respect and to be someone who can hold onto it.

Leonardo da Vinci "Constancy, not he who begins but he who endures." Reflection Endurance is the true measure of strength. Many can begin a journey, but only those who persevere through trial, hardship, and loss reveal the depth of their spirit. This truth resonates profoundly with the story of the Native American people, who have endured centuries of struggle, displacement, and attempts to erase their way of life. Yet they remain, carrying forward their traditions, their reverence for creation, and their respect for the sacred.

Like the bison, a symbol of survival and provision, the people endured storms of history and still walk with dignity. Endurance here is not mere survival; it is faithfulness, a refusal to abandon the sacred truths entrusted to them. In this way, da Vinci's words become a testament not only to personal perseverance but also to a people whose endurance is itself a living act of respect for the Creator and for life.

Blessun of the Bison May the eyes of the bison grant you vigilance, to watch over your path, and to see clearly the dangers and blessings ahead.

May the heart of the bison give you endurance, to bear the weight of trial, and to press onward across long and weary plains.

May the spirit of the bison keep you resilient, standing tall against storms, unyielding when the winds of hardship blow.

May the voice of the bison awaken remembrance, teaching you to honor your ancestors, and to walk with respect for the land that sustains you.

May the strength of the bison carry you forward, with power in your step and blessing in your breath.

And may the soul of the bison remind you always: you are a guardian of plenty, a symbol of provision, and the Great Spirit walks with you, as wide as the prairie and as endless as the sky.

Fun Facts About Bison Bison are the largest land mammals in North America—adult males can weigh up to 2,000 pounds!

Even though they look bulky, bison can run up to 40 miles per hour and jump over fences that are 6 feet tall.

A bison's hump is made of pure muscle—it helps power their heads when they plow through snow or dirt.

Bison roll around in dust to cool off and keep bugs away—this is called a wallow.

Baby bison are called red dogs because of their orange-red fur when they're first born.