



## *The Horses of the Dreamworld*

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The children were cloaked in the darkness of the night and space was filled with a million stars. Now they were going to ride upon Bru, a buffalo, and on Dhunan and Goldenstar, the Horses of the Dreamworld, to a place where they had never been before.

Bluebird directed the children: "Faith, you take Moonbaby this time, and ride on Bru. Joy and TT - hop on Dhunan. I'll ride with Hope on Goldenstar. Remember... don't let go of the mane! Now... riders mount - everyone get on!"

The children leapt upon wide muscled backs, and gripped hard with their knees. The front riders held on to the neck and manes of their animals, and the back riders held tightly to the waists of the person in front. Moonbaby rode in his papoose on Faith's back.

Just as they mounted, somewhere from deep space a rhythmic sound began. It was slower than a heartbeat, but just as steady. It was quiet as a soft drumbeat: tum... tum... tum... tum... , and it made

Dhunan, a stallion whose color was as black as space itself, picked up his ears and shook his head. Goldenstar glanced at him with flashing eyes, and Dhunan neighed.

Because this was a dream, the children could understand all of the animals' sounds. When Dhunan had neighed, he had said, "Even if it's dark and we can't see, we can hear the sound and follow it to The Golden Place." Goldenstar raised her head and shook it up and down, nodding in agreement, and her white mane fell softly over the gold star that was on her ivory forehead.

Chirping, Bluebird added, "Listen to Dhunan and Goldenstar. Watch and listen, and we will learn!" The tumming of the drumbeat continued. It made the horses and Bru shift the weight of their bodies, first to one side, then to the other, and soon their movements matched the rhythm of the sound. The children had shivers of excitement, and their hearts pounded as their anticipation grew with every second.

Then came a whooshing, almost dizzying feeling, like they felt when going up an elevator, and they rose into the air, free! The animals felt strong and warm beneath them. The children held tight, and were not afraid, for flying was one of their favorite dreams.

"Riders away!" called Bluebird. They all turned in mid air, and began to follow the sound to its source. They rode close to each other, and as they flew through space, it looked like they were traveling up and down huge ocean waves that were filled with colors and lightbeams. This was better than any ride back on earth! Bru let out a happy roar, and the children whooped and hollered with glee.

Soon they could see a yellow glow, far away in the distance. Dhunan neighed, "Look for the light and watch it grow - it will become more and more magnificent." Goldenstar whinnied, "The heart knows love... your heart *knows*... love shines in your heart... your *golden* heart."

As the glowing place came closer, the waves started to get smaller, and the tumming sound became softer. Then, the waves were calm and still. The light had become a brilliant, golden-white color, and the children began to hear beautiful music. It felt like the melody was calling to them. They wondered - *how could this be?*

The horses and Bru's hooves touched down on a shimmering landscape, and they stepped through something that looked like water but was actually liquid light. This was a new place, a very new adventure! They moved from the shore to the golden land and Bluebird flew from horse to horse and to Bru, whose eyes were shining with a love that came from his big heart. The children were speechless, taking in all the beauty. Never before had they ever seen a place like this. They saw a temple, bordered by a flowing stream of luminous water. The stream came from a cascading waterfall that emerged from high in the mountains above the temple.





Dhunan and Goldenstar whinnied together, “This is The Golden Place, the place of love, our home. Once you have come here, you will never forget it. The heart remembers forever.” Emotion filled the children, and Faith whispered, “It’s so beautiful.... I never knew *anything* could be so beautiful.”

Bluebird circled around them, warbling, “Children, be still. Stay calm and listen. Remember... when we listen and watch, we will learn.” The children repeated this to themselves, “Listen and watch and we will learn.”

They looked at each other and at The Golden Place in awe. They needed Bluebird to help them understand. He hopped from Bru to Dhunan to Goldenstar, trying to get everyone’s attention. Finally he chirped, “This is a place where only love exists, where nothing can ever go wrong. It will take time to learn the secrets of this world. Remember, watch and ...”

“We know!” the children interrupted. “Watch and listen and we will learn!”

“Good!” cried Bluebird. “Now slide off your mounts. It’s time to enter the Golden Place!”

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“Za! Za-a-a-a! Don’t. Not now,” moaned Faith. Of all the times for her cat to come and wake her up. Just when everything was getting good, when she was about to go into The Golden Place. “Now, how am I going to get back there? *How* Za? It’s all your fault!”

Za was digging her claws into the pillow only inches from Faith's head, always the "signal" that her cat wanted to get under the covers. "What am I going to do with you?" muttered Faith as she absentmindedly scratched Za's head, lifting the covers, saying, "Okay... get in. But hurry - it's cold!" The cat slowly entered, but once under, couldn't make up her mind what to do. She circled once, then twice, and finally on the third time around settled down into her "spot", a place against Faith's tummy. At this point Faith always sighed with relief and lowered the covers, because that meant Za would go to sleep and not bother her for hours. Za's soft furry back felt warm and velvety, and Faith couldn't resist stroking her. This gave Za waves of bliss and she would stretch out her paws and purr even harder.

As Faith was drifting off to sleep, she remembered, "Watch and listen and we will learn. Bluebird? Bru? Dhunan? Goldenstar? I want to go back. *Please* bring me back." But the night was silent. Soon Faith and Za felt the rise and fall of each other's breathing, and the comforting warmth of their bodies next to each other, and they fell into a deep sleep.

When Faith awoke it was still dark and Za was gone. Images lit up in her mind of the golden-white place with the music. She could feel it like a memory, but it wouldn't come into focus, like a dream that can't quite be remembered in the morning. A streak of blue flew by her window, and she could swear she heard Bluebird's voice call out, "Keep the Faith!" That made her a little bit mad. "If one more person says that to me," she fussed, "I'm changing my name!" But in truth, she knew she would never do that, because she liked her name.

She started to hear faint music and it seemed to come from another room in the house. "My parents must be playing a new CD. It's so beautiful," she said to herself. Then she heard Za meow, "Let me out," and Faith replied, "Okay Za - if you're outside for awhile you won't keep bothering me and I can get some sleep!" Faith was listening to the music, and it reminded her of something familiar, but what was it? She walked towards Za, who was nearly prancing, making a beeline for the front door. The cat seemed unusually excited. Arriving there, Za stood on her back legs while her front paws rested on the door. "Meow, meow!" "Okay, okay!" Faith nearly shouted, "Out you go!"

Faith turned the knob, pulled on the handle and Za was out in a flash. As the door opened farther, Faith was flooded by a dazzling array of brilliant golden-white light. She gasped. And there was that familiar music that gave her goosebumps - it was the same melody she'd heard right before she'd been woken up. But now she had to wonder... was she awake, or was she asleep? Or was this the same dream?





Emotion swept through Faith as she walked into the light, so thick it was like a mist, and followed Za, who was already ahead of her. The cat turned and looked back at her, and sweetly meowed as if to say, "Hurry Faith, follow me!" She could see the little curved tip of Za's tail bobbing along the pathway which was getting harder and harder to see because the misted light was getting denser, and brighter. And the music was growing stronger.

She called out to her cat, "Oh, Za, I'm sorry. Thank you, sweet little friend... Thank you." Suddenly, Za was nowhere to be seen. Hey..... Za!.... Where'd you go? Za? Za?.... Are you still there? Oh no...Za, *come back!*"

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“Fay gon.”

Everyone looked at Moonbaby who had just spoken for the first time and was now on the ground. Only moments ago he had been quietly riding in the papoose on Faith’s back, until her sudden disappearance. Yet in perfect Moonbaby style, he was completely unruffled by having been dropped with a thud. Joy scooped him up and slid her arms through the leather papoose straps, wriggled it into comfort on her back, and said, “There you go little Brother.”

The children searched every direction, scanning the landscape for any sign of Faith. What had happened to her? They wondered where could she have possibly gone? Because only seconds ago she was with them.

“Her dream body must have slipped back to earth,” chirped Bluebird. “Or maybe she went into another dream. Take extra care to remember everything, so we can tell her all about our visit to The Golden Place if she isn’t able to come back.”

“Come back?” TT’s face wrinkled in puzzlement. He looked to Bluebird for an explanation.

“With practice, TT,” said Bluebird, landing on the child’s head, lifting strands of hair with his beak, “a person can move from dream to dream at will.”

“Huh??? Boobird, dat tickles!” giggled TT, rubbing his head. The bird took a few steps and continued, “If everyone sends strong images to Faith of where we are, our thoughts can make a “bridge” that might help her to find us. If we sing The Song, perhaps she will be able to hear us, and follow the sound, and come back to us.”

“Oh,” said TT, but he still didn’t really understand.

Bluebird hopped down, and the rounded curve of his head shown softly in the golden light, and his blue feathers rippled. He sang a throatied song, a melody of notes that danced with the music of The Golden Place, a sound that had become so constant it was as real as the ground they walked upon. He paused, tipping his head to the side, as if he was listening. “Let’s sing The Song right now,” he chirped.

“Join hands. Circle around Bru and the horses. Everyone get into position. Ready?” He began, warbling, “Sing *wiggle tozies... wrinkle nozies... blinky eyes.... twinkle glowzies*. Good! Again. Think of Faith. *Feel* her with us... again... *wiggle tozies... wrinkle nozies... blinky eyes... twinkle glowzies!*”

Dhunan, Goldenstar, and Bru faced each other, making a three way star, while Bluebird flew high on the lookout. They sang and neighed, whinnied and chirped, and sent The Song to Faith. The children ran around the animals and they all wondered if Faith could hear them, singing and calling her name with their hearts.



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Back in Faith's world, a column of light appeared in front of her and she stumbled, muttering, to herself, *how the heck did that get here? Oh this is getting really weird!* Then she saw Za, and exclaimed, "Za! You're back! Oh Za, thank goodness." She picked up her cat and held her tightly because she was feeling a bit afraid. Then she took a good look around and spoke to her kitty. "At least we're in this together," and took a deep breath, trying to relax.

Before Faith's eyes the column of light began to change into something that looked like softly falling snow. As Faith and Za walked into it, images of Bru, Bluebird, Goldenstar, and Dhunan came to her. Faint voices like a dream floated around her in the falling snow-light, along with The Song of blinky eyes and twinkle glowsies. She closed her eyes, thinking of her friends, longing to be with them.

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"Fay ba!" cried Moonbaby, and everyone stared in his direction.

"Hey everyone, look, Faith's back!" shouted Joy.

Bluebird chirped, delighted, and asked, "You heard The Song? What happened?"

"Yes.. it was amazing!" Faith said, almost shouting, as she put Za down, and then began to wave her arms in excitement. "First I was here with you all, and then Za woke me up. I kept hearing music in my house. And then I saw you, Bluebird, flying by my window, telling me to *keep the faith*. Then I fell asleep, and Za woke me up again and she made me let her out.

When I opened the door there was all this light outside. Za went out into a mist, all glowy and beautiful, but I didn't know where I was and I could hardly see anything. I lost Za, and then a huge beam of light appeared - *that was weird!* Za came back, and then the beam turned into falling snow! Can you believe it? I heard 'wiggle tozies', and suddenly I felt okay and then I was here!" She stared at them in near disbelief that this had happened.

"Yes, Faith, it must have been confusing!" said Bluebird as he flew down from TT's head to land on her outstretched hand. She gently stroked the bird's back with the fingers from her other hand and he cocked his head, ruffled his feathers, and trilled softly. "You found us in this world of light that is so different from back home, and we found you. Everyone helped - Bru, Goldenstar, Dhunan, the children. It's a gift, this connection we share with each other." He flew onto Dhunan's shoulder and cheeped, "Now that we're all together again, let's go deeper into The Golden Place!"

The horses both neighed, and they guided the children and Bru to the side of the temple where there was a meadow covered with flowers of every color imaginable. And in the distance they could see the mountains and the waterfall.

After they walked farther into The Golden Place, they saw a child with wavy, long dark hair. She was wearing a white dress that almost touched her feet, which were bare. She was coming down the steps of the temple to greet them, and she almost seemed to float in the air. Her skin was radiant, like the golden world that glowed with light. With a smile she said, "Hello, I'm Matheena."

"Hi Matheena! I love your name," said Faith. "Let me introduce you to everyone.... This is TT," she said turning to him, "and I'm Faith" she said, pointing to herself. "And this is Goldenstar and Dhunan... but maybe you already know them, since this is their home too." Mathena smiled again, her eyes glowing with happiness. "And this is Hope, and Joy and Moonbaby, who's Joy's little brother. And of course, I could never forget, Bluebird and Bru!"

"It's so nice to meet you all," replied Matheena. And everyone welcomed her in their own way. She stroked Dhunan and Goldenstar on their foreheads, saying, "I see you have brought some special friends." The horses neighed and shook their heads in agreement. Bluebird flew to her and landed on the top of her head. The children burst out laughing. She closed her eyes for a moment. It was as if Matheena and Bluebird were communing together in a silent language. She bent down and picked up Za, and asked, "And who is this adorable little traveler?"

Faith blushed, and realized she had forgotten about her cat. "Oh dear. I'm sorry, this is Za, my cat. He brought me here, but that's a long story!" Matheena petted Za, who just purred and purred.

The children were excited and wondered what it would be like to live in The Golden Place all the time. Joy was the first to ask. "Matheena... do you live here all the time - I mean, what's it like?"

She replied, "It is so different than anywhere else. As you can see, it's very beautiful and peaceful. The sounds of musical notes of the flute and other songs are always in the air. There is nothing we can do or think of that is not filled with goodness. Everyone is kind and happy. We are most fortunate to live here," she said, patting Dhunan on his neck, and whispering to him, "aren't we, my friend." The horse shook his head and leaned closer to her.

Hope replied, "That isn't always the way it is where we're from. Often, it's scary or we feel afraid. But our parents do their best to protect us, and teach us how to be safe. Bluebird helps us to understand the world, and to see things in a positive way, even the hard things."

Mathena looked at Hope and said, "It's good to hear that Bluebird is teaching you. I remember when he taught me too, in my dreams." She reached up and touched him lightly. "And Bru," she sighed, "how I have missed seeing you." She threw her arms around his shaggy fur, and the buffalo made a deep rumbling noise. It was clear to everyone that they were old friends too.



Looking at Bru and Matheena, they all gushed, “Awwhhhh” at the same time, and thought about how Bluebird had taught their new friend in her dreams too, just like they were being taught. They started to appreciate how unusual it was to have the opportunity to dream travel to new and exciting worlds with their guides and friends, Bluebird, Bru, Dhunan, and Goldenstar!

This lifted their spirits and opened their hearts, because they were, after all, in The Golden Place, where sad thoughts would evaporate like the sun melted the fog. This made Joy think about wiggle tozies, so she asked Matheena, “Do you know The Song?”

“What’s The Song?” Matheena asked, stepping in closer to everyone so she could hear them better.

“It’s when we all join together in a circle, hold hands and sing wiggle tozies, wrinkle nozies, blinky eyes, twinkle glowzies,” Joy replied.

“Oh, I love that! Let’s do it!” Matheena exclaimed, clapping her hands.

The children formed a circle, and took hold of each other’s hands. They started to sing The Song over and over again, spinning in their circle, going faster and faster, holding tighter and tighter, until they all fell down, dizzy, laughing, and exhausted. As they lay in the meadow looking up at the golden sky, Matheena asked, “Do you remember before you were born?”

Faith looked at Hope. Joy looked at TT, and he looked at Moonbaby. Did they remember? Had they forgotten? They couldn’t say. “I membah”, said Moonbaby. All heads turned toward him. But of course... this was *Moonbaby* they thought, and why should they be surprised to hear him say this? Because somehow, Moonbaby always knew everything!

Even so, Hope was a little amazed. “How do you remember?” she asked. Moonbaby looked around at the golden light, at the temple, at the mountains and the stream, at Goldenstar and Dhunan, at Matheena and into all of their eyes, and just said, “I membah.... *here*.”

Matheena, Hope, TT, Joy and Faith sighed, and then Matheena giggled. Her eyes became mischievous, and she asked, “do you know chocolate? I remember chocolate when I lived on Earth.”

Everyone started to laugh - but once again they were totally surprised. Joy asked, “You lived on Earth?? Wow!” And yes, they remembered chocolate. “We love it!”, they cried. “But our Mom’s won’t let us eat too much because it makes us crazy!” And they all started to giggle again.

As the children lay amongst the flowers, they savored the feeling of joy that was all around and inside of them, and wondered if The Golden Place was the “before” that Mathena had asked them if they remembered. Goldenstar, Dhunan, and Bru leaned down and nuzzled their faces, and the children wrapped their arms around the animals’ large heads, and stroked their foreheads. Overcome with feelings impossible to describe, the words “Thank you, thank you... I love you so much!” poured from their lips.

Faith, TT, Moonbaby, Joy, and Hope closed their eyes, and when they opened them again the sun was shining through the windows of each of their bedrooms and the birds were singing, “Time to get up!” Then came Bluebird’s trilling and chirping, and this little poem was carried on the wind:

The more love we take in,	Until we breathe it,
the happier we get.	and feel it,
And the happier we are,	and know it,
the more love we give back.	and show it!
And that in turn makes room for more.	And then we are just love!

