

KEIKO SPEAKS

Keiko's True Story
Based On His Communications
With Bonnie Norton

**By Bonnie Norton, Animal Communicator
and Keiko, the Orca Whale**
Who Starred in the Movie *Free Willy*

Animal Messenger Publishing

Keiko Speaks

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ABOUT ANIMAL COMMUNICATION

In 1996 an Animal Communicator came to my riding stable and talked with several of my horses. I thought she was a one-in-a-million person who just happened to have this special gift. Later, I learned that we are all born with this ability, but most of us lose it at an early age. As soon as I heard that some Animal Communicators teach workshops so others can redevelop their natural ability, I attended every workshop I could get to on the west coast. When I realized I could help many more animals and people, I sold my barn and horses so I could become a full-time Animal Communicator.

To communicate with animals one must quiet the mind, let go of any preconceived thoughts or ideas, and allow the animal's response to come through. The communication is from the animal's perspective, and our intention is to receive the animal's own thoughts and feelings.

Communicators receive an animal's thoughts, concepts and emotions in a variety of ways. These include hearing, sensing, instant knowing, feeling what the animal feels, the animal sending mental images, etc. This varies with each person and sometimes with different animals. We simply honor however the communication takes place.

I receive most of my communications through hearing and then writing it down immediately. I usually hear one or two words at a time and have no idea where the thought or idea is going. Sometimes I receive the entire thought or sentence. Occasionally, the information comes in other ways, and only rarely do I receive mental pictures. I always note in my communications if the information is received in a way other than hearing and writing. In whatever way it comes through, the person more or less

interprets the animal's intentions and, in turn, the animal receives our intentions.

It is also possible to communicate long distance, somewhat like tuning a radio into the correct frequency. There is no physical connection between the two, but communication is possible.

If you are skeptical about our ability to communicate with animals you might be interested to know that the U.S. Government developed a research program at Stanford Research Institute called "Remote Viewing." The CIA, the U.S. Army and the Defense Intelligence Agency were involved in the program which included developing human telepathic skills to learn more about people, places and events at distant locations. They must have known there is some truth to this phenomenon or they would not have funded the program for twenty years at a cost of over \$20 million.

As far as specifically communicating with animals, Rupert Sheldrake, Ph.D. has written a wonderful book, "Dogs That Know When Their Owners Are Coming Home - and Other Unexplained Powers of Animals". Using accepted scientific methods, he documents numerous situations where there is a connection between animals and humans for which he can find no explanation other than mental telepathy.

My dog, "White Socks" said it best during a communication with me: "We are not what most think or believe we are. We are creatures of love and joy, here to teach man of such things. Anyone who doubts you or what we are saying is just not ready to continue on their cycle of growth."

Animals are so much more aware than we have been led to believe. My hope is that Keiko's book will confirm this to the many people who already know it in their hearts, and that it will open the hearts of others to consider. May each and every person have permission to openly love and acknowledge animals for all they are. I believe that when people realize how intelligent and aware the animals are, they will be more loving, compassionate and respectful of all beings.

My hope is that my work will help create "reverence" for all animals. Webster's Dictionary defines reverence as "honor and respect mixed with love and awe."

* * *

"Until one has loved an animal,
part of one's soul remains unawakened."

~ Anatole France

INTRODUCTION

This is Keiko's true story based on my communication experiences with him between 1997 and 2003. Because of the volume of our conversations, some of Keiko's quotes were omitted, but none were altered. The communicator's dialogue was edited only for clarity and brevity. Except for my friend, Kevin, no names were changed to protect anyone. All information regarding Keiko's status was taken from newspaper articles, documentaries and/or television reports on him, or personal conversations with people concerned about or involved with Keiko.

During my work with Keiko, there were several times I asked two professional Animal Communicators to communicate with Keiko to verify the accuracy of the information I was receiving. Mary J. Getten and Teresa Wagner asked Keiko the same or similar questions, and only after I had completed my communication with Keiko did I ask for their results. Later, you will learn about Tyler Graham, who also contributed greatly to representing Keiko. All of our communications were taken either directly from their e-mails to me, or from our live or taped telephone conversations.

I always try to ask neutral, open-ended questions so as to not lead an animal to any specific response. Throughout the book you will notice that Keiko was asked similar questions a number of times. Because of his situation, it was important to know how he was feeling physically and emotionally; if he was eating enough to stay healthy; and how he was doing at different stages of his journey.

I also opened and closed most communications with the question, "Is there anything you would like to say?" This gave him a chance to say what was important to him before he considered my questions, and again

before ending the conversation. I also silently opened each communication by asking him to communicate clearly and accurately because I wanted so much to represent him as truthfully as possible. There were also times I received two words to describe what he was telling me. Rather than decide which word was more accurate, those words are shown with an "and/or " slash mark.

In the same way, some of Keiko's responses were repeated over and over again-especially about his desire to be with people. I was faced with an editorial quandary as to how much of Keiko's plea to leave out. At the risk of being redundant, I decided to leave his responses as he communicated them to me and to others. I believe those who read this book will do so because they loved Keiko and want to know his true story, including his relentless cries to be with people.

Some of the questions asked during our group communications with Keiko might seem irrelevant during the conversation. This is because the questions were determined before the communications began, so we did not know what Keiko was experiencing at the time, or how he would respond to previous questions.

When our responses from Keiko differ, please keep in mind that each person interprets the animal's response individually. And Keiko, like any living being, can feel good or be happy on one day and not the next. As we know, experiences or circumstances can even affect one's mood several times during the same day. Also, because Iceland is seven hours ahead of the western United States (PST), and Norway is nine, Keiko may have indicated that he was not with people because it was the middle of the night.

The questions or comments to Keiko are printed in italics. Keiko's responses are in quotes. Comments from the communicator are in regular print with no italics or quotation marks.

Between 1998 and 2004, I wrote seven letters to the organizations responsible for making decisions for Keiko. I briefly tried to explain how Animal Communication works, and what Keiko had been saying. I made suggestions based on what Keiko wanted, and asked that they consider his communications and his behavior when making decisions for him. I also requested to meet with them personally with the hope they would see I am a relatively normal, sane person just trying to represent Keiko.

Four years later I received their first response, after which we wrote and spoke several times. Their general response was that despite Keiko's apparent desire to be with people, he was making great progress and they wanted to give him more time to choose to be free.

In an effort to write Keiko's entire story, initially I was going to include all correspondence between Keiko's organizations and myself. As the book took on a life of its own it became clear that, although this information was interesting, it distracted from Keiko's own message. I have included reports of what was happening to Keiko and what others said about releasing him, but other than occasional excerpts and references to letters I submitted, most correspondence between Keiko's organizations and myself has been omitted.

This is Keiko's book and I promised him I would do what I could to help him be heard. Keiko's "Message to the World" is contained in the last chapter and can be printed from my website www.keikospeaks.com.

KEIKO'S PAST

Keiko, which means "lucky one in Japanese, was captured in 1979 off the coast of Iceland when he was about two years old. In 1982 he was sold to Marineland in Ontario, Canada, then sold again in 1985 to Reino Aventura, an amusement park in Mexico City. An estimated 25 million people (as many as 20,000 people a day) saw Keiko when he was in Mexico.

Keiko was chosen to star in the 1993 movie, *Free Willy*, about a captive whale who is set free by a young boy. At the end of the film, a telephone number was shown for anyone interested in saving the whales. Over 300,000 people called Dave Phillips of Earth Island Institute, and even more sent letters and donations insisting that Keiko be set free.

At the time Keiko was living in conditions far from his native cold water ocean at sea level. In Mexico he was at an altitude of 7,000 feet. His tiny pool was only 12 feet deep with 80-degree water, which also aggravated his virus-induced skin lesions.

When it was learned that Keiko was in poor health and possibly dying, \$100,000 was raised to help move him to a healthier environment. Dave Phillips formed the Free Willy Keiko Foundation with the hopes of returning Keiko to health and eventually setting him free.

On January 7, 1996 over 1 billion people worldwide watched as Keiko was flown from Mexico City to the Oregon Coast Aquarium in Newport, Oregon. He arrived safely and was gently released into cool seawater for the first time in fourteen years. His new \$7.3 million tank was five times larger than his tank in Mexico.

This is where my story with Keiko begins.

THE DAY I MET KEIKO— MY LIFE CHANGED FOREVER

August 16, 1997

This was a day I will remember for the rest of my life. It all began on a warm summer afternoon during a drive to the coast with Kevin. Not having been to the Oregon coast before, I asked him what there was to do there. Knowing my love for (or obsession with) animals, Kevin said, "Well, if you want, we could stop by and see Keiko." That year I had been attending workshops to learn how to communicate with animals, so my first thought was, "Wow, I wonder if I can communicate with a whale?"

I didn't even know where Newport, Oregon was and I was on my way to see Keiko, the famous orca whale. At that time, I hadn't seen the movie, but I remember watching the television news when Keiko was flown from Mexico to the Oregon Coast Aquarium. I cried as I watched the staff standing in his new tank, helping him out of the sling that moments before had lifted him over the aquarium wall. Keiko was very quiet until the end when he wiggled around a little, then swam out of the sling into the cool water of his new home. It was heartwarming to see people do so much to help an animal.

Now, a year and a half later, Keiko was much healthier. He had gained weight and his skin lesions had healed significantly. Reports were that the Free Willy Keiko Foundation, the organization responsible for Keiko, was beginning to make plans to return him to the wild. I thought their intentions were quite honorable.

As Kevin and I entered the aquarium, we were warned that Keiko was not always visible in his tank, and that no refunds would be given if we could not see him. Although his tank was relatively small, if he was far enough away from the viewing windows, he could not always be seen through the murky water. How disappointing it would be to be right there and not be able to see him.

As we walked towards Keiko's exhibit, some people walking away were commenting that they had waited for a long time and still did not get to see him. Even though I wasn't sure what to expect, magic was already beginning to happen. I was becoming more excited with anticipation, hoping that I would be able to see Keiko.

We slowly followed the crowd into what felt like a cool, underground cave. Keiko's exhibit had three large viewing windows, one in the center and one angled on each side. It was a little dark and crowded, but all other awareness disappeared when I spotted Keiko. There he was—slowly moving in front of the window on the right. There were three staff members in wet suits swimming in the tank. Now that I think about it, they must have just gotten in the water because they were where the spectators could easily see them and Keiko.

We stood there in awe at Keiko's magnificence. His beautiful black and white body was like nothing I had ever seen before. I noticed his bent dorsal fin, which had become his trademark, and three black dots under his chin. Now, as I write this, I realize that the overwhelming feeling I had when I first saw Keiko was much more than just his striking body. There was something about seeing him, just being in his presence that touched me on a much deeper level. I didn't realize it then, but Keiko touched my heart in a profound way. That day I fell in love with a whale and, little did I know, Keiko would change my life forever.

Kevin watched for a short time, then left. We agreed he would come back in about an hour. I spotted a place on the railing around the back of the exhibit where I could set down my notebook and, if I could communicate with Keiko, write everything down.

As I started making my way through Keiko's tightly packed fans, I mentally said, *Hello Keiko. My name is Bonnie and I am here to see if you will talk to me. I want to tell the world what the animals have to say.* I no sooner finished the thought when, to my surprise, Keiko replied, "Start writing. I'm ready!"

I quickly flipped through my notebook to a blank page and began writing every word.

"We would like man to realize what he is doing to the world. That many changes have taken place over years and there are more things to come. Man must realize that he has a tremendous effect on the future of our planet."

Then I heard and wrote one slow word at a time.

"Where...are...you?"

First, I was surprised by the sudden change in topic; then even more surprised by Keiko's awareness. He was asking me where I was! It was almost eerie. I left my notebook and made my way towards the window, almost as if, somehow, I might miss him. As I got closer, I stood in the center of the glass viewing window on the left side. There were fewer people by this window and, being fairly tall, somehow I thought he would know me. Keiko swam past me in a counterclockwise direction following the last diver who then got out of the water.

I mentally said to Keiko, *You just swam past me, I'm in the center of the first window.* Then I repeated, *You just swam past me, I'm in the center of the first window.* As he completed his circle to the left, he turned and swam straight towards me! I'd swear he was looking me right in the eyes!

He turned left just in front of the glass. I stood there for a moment, just trembling. The physical and emotional sensations were indescribable. A young boy standing with his father next to me excitedly said, "Daddy, daddy, he swam right at us! He swam right at us!"

My heart was still pounding as I slowly walked back to where I had left my notebook. Overwhelmed by my experience, I said to myself (not doubting what had just happened, but as one would say in pure amazement), "I don't believe this." To my surprise, Keiko immediately responded to my own mental thought.

"It is your connectedness with the universe and the animals that allows this. Don't doubt yourself anymore. This should clarify it for you!"

It took me a minute to collect myself and start writing again. I told Keiko that I hoped to write a book to let people know what animals have to say. I asked, *What else would you like to say to me or the world?*

"We would like man to understand that we all want to live in peace. To be free from fear and pressure to survive. We want all animals and man to love alike. There will always be differences but those can be worked through in a peaceful way-without violence and war. Understanding and compassion are the answer to peace. If man only knew how much he is influencing everything on this earth, and everything he does will leave an impact on all other living beings."

Keiko's thoughts flowed easily like a wise, old man. *How can we or you or I help others to understand?*

"You are a start and others before and after will help shift the world in a better direction. Your book is a wonderful idea and many will listen and learn and grow from what they hear from us. We are all here with a/our specific purpose to learn and grow and be who we truly are; to learn to love and forgive and enjoy our life on this earth. How many people do you know who truly live their lives that way?"

Probably some, not a lot.

"See what I mean? People are stumbling through their life with no awareness of their purpose or the big picture. You will be the connection for them-to help others find their way in life...You can ask other questions."

Feeling woozy, I said, *Wait a minute Keiko, I need to regroup. This is all quite overwhelming. I need some air.*

As I walked outside, Keiko continued.

"Good for you. You know how to take care of yourself-something else humans need to learn more of how to do."

I took a few deep breaths of the warm, fresh air and then returned to my post inside. *Keiko, I'm back inside. Is there more you would like the world to know? What is the most important thing you would like the people of the world to know?*

"Learn to live in peace and take care of our world. It does not exist just for man alone. Many others depend on the earth and its survival for their existence. Man believes he is the special one and all others are less significant. Without the rest of us, man is nothing-he will cease to exist."

As a way to validate that I was truly communicating with Keiko, I asked, *Is there anything else, or something specific you can tell me about yourself?* I was hoping he would tell me something I would have no way

of knowing, or something only those working closely with him might know. I was very surprised by his response.

"I am quite content for the moment. I am feeling much better and healthier than before. I like the attention and effect I have on all the people that come to see me, especially the younger ones and the children. They will remember seeing me for a long time. If they set me free because they believe they are helping me, they will be doing a disservice to many, many people that will be influenced. I am happy enough here to stay and have an impact on the many people who will visit me. I am willing to stay, versus being set free for me alone. I need to impact others by my captivity much more than I need to be set free. If they insist on setting me free, I will continue to do things and/or behave in a way to discourage them from letting me go, for my purpose is best accomplished by being here. Please let them know this. They believe they are doing what I want, but it is what they want for me. They mean well, so please help them to understand me."

For a moment, I considered it might help to have another Animal Communicator validate his request. Again, Keiko responded to my thought.

"Yes, bring in other Animal Communicators so they will believe you and me. Love to the World from Keiko."

I walked outside, sat down with Kevin and just cried. I told him, "You'll never believe what just happened!" Without a doubt, this was the most profound communication I have ever had with an animal. At that time, I wasn't sure what I was going to do with the information from Keiko. I had heard talk about setting him free, but for some reason during my visit it didn't seem like it was really going to happen. And if it was, not anytime soon.