



THE STATE OF TEXAS ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE DAY FOUNDATION
THE TEXAS BISON STUDENT STUDY GROUP JOURNAL

“N̄m̄kutsua T̄bini?”

(Where is the buffalo?)

(PART 1)

By

Juanita Pahdopony



“BULL BISON WITH PRAIRIE DOG”- The photograph was contributed by Molly Lord. She is a former student of Comanche Nation College of Lawton, Oklahoma and is currently attending Midwestern University in Wichita Falls, Texas. The photograph was taken on June 6, 2011 at Wichita Mountains near Lawton-Fort Sill Oklahoma.

A long time ago when the animals could talk, the Comanche were nomadic hunters and gatherers on the Southern Plains. Nəmənə or ‘the people’ is what they called themselves. They had an enduring respect for all the animals and the plants because they understood that each one had an important place on the planet. It was a magical time when Nəmənə lived in great numbers and the buffalo numbered in the millions.

One creature that shared the Southern Plains was the horned toad. He had an unusual name because his name was a question, “Nəməkutsuə Təbini?” Where is the buffalo? The horned toad was a little ‘medicine brother’ to the Comanche and pointed out where the buffalo could be found. All the people had to do was say his name and after a pause, he revealed the direction by facing his sharp pointed face in the direction of the buffalo. And that was where the people would travel to find the Nəm Kətsə.

Many Comanche buffalo stories originated in the place now known as the State of Texas. At one time, the buffalo numbered in the millions and horned toad was often correct in pointing out the locations where the buffalo could easily be found. Today, the buffalo is more difficult to find but that is another story. Subeetə!

Translations:

Nəm Kətsu = buffalo (Comanche cow)

Nəməkutsuə Tubini? = Where is the buffalo?

Subeetə = end; all finished

Editor’s Note: Professor Pahdopony is an Assistant Professor of Arts and Humanities, a Tribal College Fellow and Dean of Academic Affairs of The Comanche Nation College in Lawton, Oklahoma. She is a member of the Comanche Nation. Professor Pahdopony shall share a Comanche historical perspective to build and strengthen cultural bridges of understanding between Texas students and the students of the homelands of the Comanche Nation through art, music, dance and writings. She shall pioneer and lead an effort to share the culture, heritage and history of the people of the Comanche Nation well known as great Texas’ Plains bison hunters.

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