

How Dakini Got Her Name:

Dakini, as you may recall, was rescued in 1995 from a puppy mill. Her original owner lived on crown land in the Whistler area of B.C. Over the years there had been numerous complaints of ill treatment and overcrowding at this establishment but because it was housed on crown land, no action had ever been taken locally until the rescue in 1995.

After the rescue Dakini was taken to North Vancouver but due to her poor health and malnutrition (initially Dakini was skin and bones and her left eye had been severely damaged) she spent several months in an animal hospital. Once she had recovered she was taken back to the North Vancouver S.P.C.A to await adoption. It seems her life was about to change as was mine as I too had recently moved to a remote island off the Sunshine Coast.

Just by chance, when I went to the SPCA in North Vancouver looking for a dog to keep me company in my new home on the island, Dakini was the only dog available. Soon her adoption was finalized and I made arrangements with a friend to help me take Dakini and new dog supplies back to the island.

Despite Dakini's courage in making this first trip which involved travelling on two ferries to reach our new home, she was still mistrustful and skittish about anything human so the journey must have been excruciating for her. Once on the island she was so nervous she was almost hyperventilating so I decided I needed to take Dakini for a walk. I thought I would take her down to the ocean where it was quiet and to let her see this vast stretch of water at close hand.

Dakini had originally been given the name Nanoose but as I took in this animal's regal stature and her beautiful pure white coat, I felt Nanoose was a name that didn't fully reflect who she really was. By now we had reached the ocean's edge and as I describe in the book, Dakini began her primal dance with the ocean waves. She literally would leap with all four feet up into the air as each new wave came in to meet the shore line.

In this timeless moment, a time when earth meets ocean, our regal white wolf husky stepped into an ancient primal dance - a dance that had been carried out for centuries. This was a dance of power, calling in the ancient

energies of the eons and all that was needed was to simply step into the dance. Imagine!

Despite being mesmerized by Dakini's actions as she danced her primal dance, I simultaneously remembered a book I had been reading called *Women Who Run With The Wolves* by Clarissa Pinkola Estés (1992). Estés had written about wild archetypal energies in women. She described myths and stories about this potent energy that had been documented in many parts of the world. Part of the author's research had also been an extensive study of wolves.

I also recalled Vicki Noble, author of *Shakti Woman*, who had also spoken of the importance of wild archetypal energies for women. I would learn that one such energy form was called, "Dakinis". Initially they were said to have given birth to the west of Tibet, a place where all religious leaders were said to be female. This pure, wild, and primal feminine energy was then later adopted by Tibet in the 8th century to become an amazing and powerful Goddess form that became known as the Sky Dancers.

So hence this was how Dakini the Dancing Wolf got her name.

It was not until after Dakini had passed years later that I would fully comprehend the full meaning of this great teacher's name. It was also truly no wonder why I had been so devastated when she passed on. Not only was she my companion, teacher and loved friend, she was the embodiment of my mighty "wild woman". Dakini the Dancing Wolf had for 15 years, brought me this ancient energy always emanating from this unearthly lineage that streamed down profound wisdom from the Sky Dancers themselves. She had mirrored this potent energy including her heyoka ways for all levels of my being.

Dakini the Dancing Wolf fully lived the legacy of her name each and every day she was with me. Now, when I close my eyes and imagine, I still see my beloved Dakini doing her eternal dance. Thank you my dear one - much gratitude.

Come now all who dare to join Grandmother - come to the great round and all you need do is just like Dakini did - simply step into the Dance! HO!