

three quarters of a mile, but the current, down to the South side. It was a critical moment. He did not loose any time. He slipped into his shirt and moccasins which he had carried on his head and at once proceeded to catch the horse standing nearby. It did not make any effort to get away. Sitting Bull extended his right hand toward the animal and said, "Grandchild, I have been sent to come to your rescue. Do not run away from me. Somebody is waiting for you on the other side."

The horse had a short rope tied round its neck. Sitting Bull got a hold of it and caught the horse. This horse was well known in the camp. He led it round to the old camp ground left behind. He found a piece of rope which helped to lengthen the rope already on the horse's neck.

As soon as he was fully rested he mounted the horse, he rode to the bank of the river but before he made the horse plunge into it he addressed the horse as follows: "Grandchild, do your best -- permit me to guide you across. If you and I reach the other side safely I shall have the Tribe make a dance in your honor."

As soon as he said this he persuaded the steed to plunge into the river and they started swimming across the treacherous river. Sitting Bull was riding it. They were carried about a half a mile down the river but landed safely. The crowd rushed, cheered and sang praises in honor of the great hero.

The promise made by Sitting Bull to the horse was fulfilled by the Tribe. It was known as Sacred Horse Dance.

This heroic deed placed Sitting Bull on the basis as rescuing a wounded comrade on the battle-field.