

ANIMALS
HAVE
A SOUL

JUST AS
HUMANS DO

DR.SAHADEVA DASA

ANIMALS HAVE A SOUL

JUST AS HUMANS
DO

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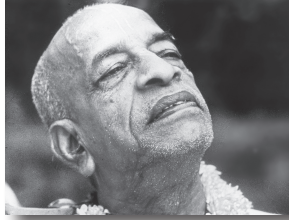
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Dedicated to....

His Divine Grace A.C.Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada



Some rascals put forward the theory that an animal has no soul or is something like dead stone. In this way they rationalize that there is no sin in animal killing. Actually animals are not dead stone, but the killers of animals are stone-hearted. Consequently no reason or philosophy appeals to them. They continue keeping slaughterhouses and killing animals.

~ Srila Prabhupada (Srimad-Bhagavatam 4.26.9)

By The Same Author

Oil-Final Countdown To A Global Crisis And Its Solutions
End of Modern Civilization And Alternative Future
To Kill Cow Means To End Human Civilization
Cow And Humanity - Made For Each Other
Cows Are Cool - Love 'Em!
Let's Be Friends - A Curious, Calm Cow
Wondrous Glories of Vraja
We Feel Just Like You Do
Tsunami Of Diseases Headed Our Way - Know Your Food Before Time
Runs Out
Cow Killing And Beef Export - The Master Plan To Turn India Into A
Desert
Capitalism Communism And Cowism - A New Economics For The 21st`
Century
Noble Cow - Munching Grass, Looking Curious And Just Hanging Around
World - Through The Eyes Of Scriptures
To Save Time Is To Lengthen Life
Life Is Nothing But Time - Time Is Life, Life Is Time
Lost Time Is Never Found Again
Spare Us Some Carcasses - An Appeal From The Vultures
An Inch of Time Can Not Be Bought With A Mile of Gold
Cow Dung For Food Security And Survival of Human Race
Cow Dung - A Down To Earth Solution To Global Warming And
Climate Change
Career Women - The Violence of Modern Jobs And The Lost Art of Home
Making
Working Moms And Rise of A Lost Generation
Glories of Thy Wondrous Name
India A World Leader in Cow Killing And Beef Export - An Italian Did
It In 10 Years
As Long As There Are Slaughterhouses, There Will Be Wars
Peak Soil - Industrial Civilization, On The Verge of Eating Itself
Corporatocracy : The New Gods - Greedy, Ruthless And Reckless
(More information on availability on DrDasa.com)

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- The Author*

Preface

Some one asked a question on Catholic.com, “Do animals have souls like human beings?”

Their answer is as follows. “The soul is the principle of life. Since animals and plants are living things, they have souls, but not in the sense in which human beings have souls. Our souls are rational—theirs aren’t—and ours are rational because they’re spiritual, not material. Animals and plants also lack a moral sense. Animal and vegetable souls are dependent entirely on matter for their operation and being. They cease to exist at death. We know human souls are spiritual since humans can know and love.”

Srila Prabhupada, the founder of the Hare Krishna movement clarifies this flawed contention in the following discussion with a disciple:

Prabhupada: Animals are also rational. If a dog enters my room, and I say, “Out!” the dog immediately understands and goes away. How can we say that there is no rationality at work? If I place my finger before an ant, that ant will turn away immediately. If you give a cow meat, the cow will not touch it. The cow understands that its food consists of grasses and grains. Animals have rationality, but one aspect of rationality is lacking: an animal cannot think of God. This

is the main difference between animals and men. A man's rationality is so developed that he can think of God, whereas an animal cannot. But we should not think that the souls of animals are not immortal. This theory has given the Christians a basis for killing animals, but they cannot prove that an animal's soul is irrational or mortal. A man eats, sleeps, defends, and mates, and an animal does the same. So what is the difference?"

Disciple: Perhaps the difference is one of mental activity. A man has the capacity to think in a more complicated way.

Prabbupada: But mental activity means accepting and rejecting. Animals also accept and reject; therefore they have mental activity.

It is also the Vedic conclusion [sarva-yonisu] that the living soul, which is part and parcel of God, is present in all different life species. Those who are foolish think the animal has no soul, but there is no rational basis for this belief. An animal may be less intelligent than a man, just as a child may be less intelligent than his father, but this does not mean that no soul is present. This type of mentality is ruining civilization. People have become so degraded that they even think that an embryo has no soul. (*Dialectic Spiritualism*)

Thus we see that religion plays an important role in shaping our attitude towards the natural world. In general, Christianity, and Western civilization as a whole, according to Professor Lynn White, Jr., held a view of nature that separated humans from the rest of the natural world, and encouraged exploitation of it for our own ends.

Sahadeva dasa

Dr. Sahadeva dasa
1st December 2015
Secunderabad, India

1.

Animal sentience

Throughout the ages, most people have recognised that animals feel pain, hunger, thirst, fear, anger, contentment and other emotions, because animals always show us that they do.

Animals are sentient beings. They can enjoy life, but they can also feel pain and can suffer physically and mentally when things go wrong. These feelings are important to them.

Understanding animal sentience means looking at life from the animals' point of view and taking account of different animals' needs and preferences, so that in our dealings with them, we can help them live a good life and prevent suffering.

Religious Philosophy And Attitude Towards Animals

Whether we are actively religious or not, religious belief permeates the very fabric of our existence. Namely, it influences, if not directly shapes, our personal, economic, social and ethical life. It is then only logical to surmise that religion also influences how we, individually and collectively, treat animals.

What role does religion play in shaping our attitude towards the animal world? One answer was proposed in 1967 by UCLA History Professor Lynn White, Jr., who wrote an article entitled, "The Historical Roots of Our Ecological Crisis" (Science 155, 1967). In this article, he said that the Western world's attitudes towards

animals and nature were shaped by the Judeo-Christian tradition (he also included Islam and Marxism within this overall tradition).

This tradition, White wrote, involved the concept of a world created solely for the benefit of man: “God planned all of creation explicitly for man’s benefit and rule: no item in the physical creation had any purpose save to serve man’s purposes.” Along with this, Western Christianity separated humans from nature. In older religious traditions, humans were seen as part of nature, rather than the ruler of nature. And in animistic religions, there was believed to be a spirit in every tree, mountain or spring, and all had to be respected.

In contrast with paganism and Eastern religions, Christianity “not only established a dualism of man and nature but also insisted that it is



God’s will that man exploit nature for his proper ends.” White noted that Christianity was a complex faith, and different branches of it differ in their outlook. But in general, he proposed that Christianity, and Western civilization as a whole, held a view of nature that separated humans from the rest of the natural world, and encouraged exploitation of it for our own ends.

The emergence of Christianity, many, like White believe, marked the moment humans broke away from previously common held beliefs that all beings, all forms of life, including plants, had spirits (or souls).

“In Antiquity every tree, every spring, every stream, every hill had its own genius loci, its guardian spirit,” he wrote. And Christianity changed all that, he believed. Man was created in God’s image, Christians believed, and notably Man was created at the end of Creation and humans therefore inherited the Earth. “By destroying pagan animism,” White wrote, “Christianity made it possible to

exploit nature in a mood of indifference to the feelings of natural objects.”

There has been much discussion on Lynn White’s articles but in general these questionable ideologies are responsible, at least in part, for the phenomenal cruelty towards animals we see in the modern world.

Also this misleading religious view has influenced other disciplines like science, ethics, economics, education and public policy.

Bishnoism

How religion influences our dealing with animals and natural world can be seen from the example of Bishnoism. It is a subset of Vedic tradition which originated in the desert of Eastern India in the 15th century. Bishnoism emphasizes living in complete harmony with our natural world. This faith is founded on the principles of love, peace, kindness, simplicity, honesty, compassion and forgiveness.

Living in an inhospitable desert terrain, Bishnois have been fiercely protecting the forests and wild life in their areas to follow the teachings



of their Guru Jambheshwarji. For Bishnois, caring for God’s creation is their prime dharma or duty. Time to time, their faith was tested by rulers, poachers and others, but Bishnois always protected the nature, even at the cost of their lives.

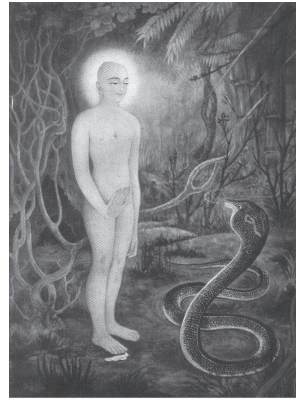
In 1730, 363 Bishnois were killed when they opposed cutting of Khejari trees. They hugged the trees and said, “sir santhe runkh rahe to bhi sasto jan”, which means that if a tree can be saved by sacrificing one’s head, even then its a good deal. These trees were being cut at the order of the king, Raja Abhay Singh. The firewood was required to burn lime stone for the construction of his palace.

Even today these people will starve to feed other hungry creatures. Women will breast feed a wild animal calf if its mother dies. In Bishnoi communities, exotic wild animals abound and roam freely. Over the years, hundreds of people have sacrificed their lives to protect these animals from poachers.

Bishnoism presents a sharp contrast to Western way of living with their utter disregard for nature, environment and other life forms.

Jainism

The Jain tradition has existed in tandem with Vedic tradition in India since 800 BC. Jains developed their own sacred texts (including the Acaranga Sutra, ca. 300 BC) and follow the authority of itinerant monks and nuns who wander throughout India preaching the essential principles and practices of the faith. Jainism holds some interesting potential for ecological thinking, though its final goal transcends earthly concerns i.e., ascending to the realm above earth and heaven.



At the core of Jain faith lies five vows that dictate the daily life of Jains. These five vows, which inspired and influenced Mahatma Gandhi, are nonviolence (ahimsa), truthfulness (satya), not stealing (asteya), sexual restraint (brahmacarya), and nonpossession (aparigraha). One adheres to these vows in order to minimize harm to all possible life-forms. For observant Jains, to hurt any being results in the thickening of one's karma, obstructing advancement toward liberation. To reduce karma and prevent its further accrual, Jains avoid activities associated with violence and follow a vegetarian diet. The advanced monks and nuns will sweep their path to avoid harming insects and also work at not harming even one sensed beings such as bacteria and water.

The worldview of the Jains might be characterized as a biocosmology due to their perception of the “livingness” of the world.

Bhagavata Dharma

Vedic tradition is popularly known as Sanatana dharma or Bhagavata dharma.

Compassion for all living beings forms the basis of Bhagavata dharma, also known as Hinduism. Bhagavata vision of equality is explained in Gita (5.18)

*vidya-vinaya-sampanne
brahmane gavi hastini
suni caiva sva-pake ca
panditah sama-darsinah*

The humble sages, by virtue of true knowledge, see with equal vision a learned and gentle brahmana, a cow, an elephant, a dog and a dog-eater.

Bhagavad-gita(6.30) mentions “For one who sees Me everywhere and who sees everything in Me, I am never lost nor is he ever lost to Me.” So a follower of Bhagavata dharma perceives the presence of the Supreme Lord in all living beings. Srila Prabhupada explains, “In the Vedic concept of grhastha [householder] life it is recommended that a householder see that even a lizard or a snake living in his house should not



starve. Even these lower creatures should be given food, and certainly all humans should be. It is recommended that the grhastha, before taking his lunch, stand on the road and declare, “If anyone is still hungry, please come! Food is ready!” If there is no response, then the proprietor of the household takes his lunch... And these things are explained in Srimad-Bhagavatam, that this world is also God’s kingdom and all living entities, they are God’s sons. So everyone

has got the right to take advantage of his father's property. This is Bhagavata communism. The communists are thinking in terms of their own country. But a devotee, thinks in terms of all living entities, wherever he is, either in the sky or in the land or in the water.”

Reference

The Historical Roots of Our Ecological Crisis

Lynn White, Jr.

Although Jada Bharata was forced to carry the palanquin, he did not give up his sympathetic feelings toward the poor ants passing on the road. A devotee of the Lord does not forget his devotional service and other favorable activities, even when he is in a most distressful condition. While walking on the road, he could not forget his duty to avoid killing even an ant. A Vaisnava is never envious or unnecessarily violent. There were many ants on the path, but Jada Bharata took care by looking ahead three feet. When the ants were no longer in his way, he would place his foot on the ground. A Vaisnava is always very kind at heart to all living entities.

—Sriḷa Prabhupada (Srimad Bhagavatam 5.10.2)

2.

Animals Are Not Just Pieces Of Furniture That 'Can Walk By Themselves'

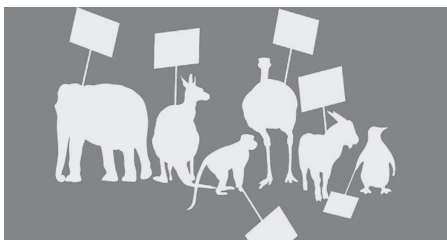
A French Move Towards Becoming Civilized

It has taken the French parliament more than 200 years to officially recognize animals as “living, sentient beings” rather than “furniture,” finally upgrading their embarrassing status that dates back to Napoleonic times.

The status of animals in France was discussed more than a year, reports Agence France-Presse. Following the debate, the animals recognized the “living creatures, able to feel”, was adopted by the Bill.

Until the motion was passed, animals in France, including domestic pets and farm animals, had the same status as a sofa.

When the civil code was wrapped up by Napoleon back in 1804, animals were considered as working farm beasts and viewed as an agricultural force designated as goods or furniture.



A two-year fight led by the French animal rights organization Fondation 30 Million d’Amis (Foundation of 30 Million Friends) has resulted in the long-awaited change.

The charity's president, Reha Hutin, insisted that the new legislation was needed to stop horrendous acts of cruelty toward animals. Currently, the law on the cruel treatment of animals in France comprises the punishment of a maximum two-year prison term and a 30,000-euro fine.

"France is behind the times here. In Germany, Austria and Switzerland they have changed the law so it says that animals are not just objects," Hutin told The Local.

"How can the courts in France punish the horrible acts that are carried out against animals if they are considered no more than just furniture?" she said.

However, France's powerful FNSEA farm lobby, along with some politicians, voiced concerns that the latest change in the legislation could undermine the interests of farmers, particular cattle breeders.

In 2002, Germany became the first country in the European Union to grant constitutional rights to its animals. Then, in 2006, members of the Dutch Party for the Animals (PvdD) became the first animal-rights MPs anywhere in the world.



Regardless of whether human, animal, tree or plant, all living entities are sons of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Lord Krsna says in Bhagavad-gita (14.4):

*sarva-yonisu kaunteya
murtayah sambhavanti yah
tasam brahma mahad yonir
aham bija-pradah pita*

"It should be understood that all species of life, O son of Kunti, are made possible by birth in this material nature, and that I am the seed-giving father."

—SriIa Prabhupada

Source

The Loal, 9 Jan 2015

RT Question More, 29 Jan, 2015

LIFE, 29 January 2015

But we have made concoction, law, that "Animal has no soul." Why it is, it has no soul? What is the difference between you and animal? You eat; the animal eats. You sleep; the animal sleeps. You have sex life; the animal has sex life. You also try to defend yourself and the animal also tries to defend himself. So ahara-nidra-bhaya-maithunam ca, eating, sleeping, mating, and defending, these four principles, bodily demand, are similar to the animal and to the man. So how can you claim that animals have no soul?
~ Srila Prabbupada (Lecture -- July 16, 1971, Detroit)

3.

A Universal Declaration on Animal Sentience

Scientists Sign Declaration That Animals Have Conscious Awareness; Just Like Humans

An international group of prominent scientists has signed The Cambridge Declaration on Consciousness in which they are proclaiming their support for the idea that animals are conscious and aware to the degree that humans are — a list of animals that includes all mammals, birds, and even the octopus. But will this make us stop treating these animals in totally inhumane ways?

While it might not sound like much for scientists to declare that many nonhuman animals possess conscious states, it's the open acknowledgement that's the big news here. The body of scientific evidence is increasingly showing that most animals are conscious in the same way that we are, and it's no longer something we can ignore.



What's also very interesting about the declaration is the group's acknowledgement that consciousness can emerge in those animals that are very much unlike humans, including those that evolved along different evolutionary tracks, namely birds and some cephalopods.

“The absence of a neocortex does not appear to preclude an organism from experiencing affective states,” they write,

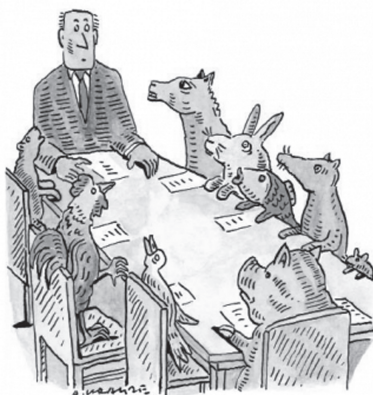
“Convergent evidence indicates that non-human animals have the neuroanatomical, neurochemical, and neurophysiological substrates of conscious states along with the capacity to exhibit intentional behaviors.”

Consequently, say the signatories, the scientific evidence is increasingly indicating that humans are not unique in possessing the neurological substrates that generate consciousness.

The group consists of cognitive scientists, neuropharmacologists, neurophysiologists, neuroanatomists, and computational neuroscientists — all of whom were attending the Francis Crick Memorial Conference on Consciousness in Human and Non-Human Animals. The declaration was signed in the presence of Stephen Hawking, and included such signatories as Christof Koch, David Edelman, Edward Boyden, Philip Low, Irene Pepperberg, and many more.

The declaration made the following observations:

- The field of Consciousness research is rapidly evolving. Abundant new techniques and strategies for human and non-human animal research have been developed. Consequently, more data is becoming readily available, and this calls for a periodic reevaluation of previously held preconceptions in this field. Studies of non-human animals have shown that homologous brain circuits



correlated with conscious experience and perception can be selectively facilitated and disrupted to assess whether they are in fact necessary for those experiences. Moreover, in humans, new non-invasive techniques are readily available to survey the correlates of consciousness.

- The neural substrates of emotions do not appear to be confined to cortical structures. In fact, subcortical neural networks aroused during affective states in humans are also critically important for generating emotional behaviors in animals. Artificial arousal of the same brain

regions generates corresponding behavior and feeling states in both humans and non-human animals. Wherever in the brain one evokes instinctual emotional behaviors in non-human animals, many of the ensuing behaviors are consistent with experienced feeling states, including those internal states that are rewarding and punishing. Deep brain stimulation of these systems in humans can also generate similar affective states. Systems associated with affect are concentrated in subcortical regions where neural homologies abound. Young human and nonhuman animals without neocortices retain these brain-mind functions. Furthermore, neural circuits supporting behavioral/ electrophysiological states of attentiveness, sleep and decision making appear to have arisen in evolution as early as the invertebrate radiation, being evident in insects and cephalopod mollusks (e.g., octopus).

- Birds appear to offer, in their behavior, neurophysiology, and neuroanatomy a striking case of parallel evolution of consciousness. Evidence of near human-like levels of consciousness has been most dramatically observed in African grey parrots. Mammalian and avian emotional networks and cognitive microcircuitries appear to be far more homologous than previously thought. Moreover, certain species of birds have been found to exhibit neural sleep patterns similar to those of mammals, including REM sleep and, as was demonstrated in zebra finches, neurophysiological patterns, previously thought to require a mammalian neocortex. Magpies in particular have been shown to exhibit striking similarities to humans, great apes, dolphins, and elephants in studies of mirror self-recognition.

- In humans, the effect of certain hallucinogens appears to be associated with a disruption in cortical feedforward and feedback

All other living entities think like yourself. That means your pains and pleasure that you feel, you should take others pains and pleasure. Not that you protect yourself from all danger and you cut the throat of the poor animals on the plea that it has no soul. This is not education. This is education, that whether the animal has soul or not soul, we shall consider later on. But when knife is on my throat I cry, and he also cries. Why shall I say that it has no soul and let me kill it?

—Sri Prabhupada (Lecture, Honolulu, May 22, 1976)

processing. Pharmacological interventions in non-human animals with compounds known to affect conscious behavior in humans can lead to similar perturbations in behavior in non-human animals. In humans, there is evidence to suggest that awareness is correlated with cortical activity, which does not exclude possible contributions by subcortical or early cortical processing, as in visual awareness. Evidence that human and nonhuman animal emotional feelings arise from homologous subcortical brain networks provide compelling evidence for evolutionarily shared primal affective quality.

Source

George Dvorsky, 8/23/12

Marc Bekoff Ph.D., *Psychology Today*, June 20, 2013

The Cambridge Declaration on Consciousness (Archive) 7 July 2012. Philip Low and edited by Jaak Panksepp, Diana Reiss, David Edelman, Bruno Van Swinderen, Philip Low and Christof Koch. University of Cambridge.

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4.

Evolving Field Of Consciousness Research

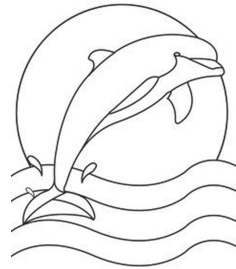
Dolphins Granted Personhood by Government of India

Dolphins have been granted “non-human personhood” status by the government of India, making India the first nation in the world to recognize the unique intelligence and self-awareness of the cetacean order (a class of aquatic mammals).

The decision was announced by India’s Minister of the Environment and Forests which also outlawed captive dolphin shows. The ministry added that dolphins “should have their own specific rights.”

Dolphins are extremely intelligent mammals with a highly-developed social structure. Recent research shows that dolphins call each other by name and can remember the unique name whistles from old “friends” heard just one time 20 years ago.

Dolphins choose their own unique name -- a series of complex whistles -- before they reach one year of age. From that point forward, all the other dolphins in their social group call them by that unique ‘name’.



Dolphins Use Highly-Complex Grammatical Communications

Previous research has shown that dolphins have human-like self awareness and engage in highly complex communications with other dolphins using grammatical sentence structure. Yes, dolphins have their own complete language, much like humans. The main difference between dolphin language and human language is that dolphins aren't vaccinated as young children and injected with brain-damaging mercury. Therefore, dolphins grow up able to speak in fully coherent sentences while many humans now are cognitively deficient and unable to compose meaningful sentences. (They are literally brain damaged by vaccines, mercury fillings and toxic chemicals in foods, medicines and personal care products).

As this 1999 scientific paper on dolphin communication explains about a dolphin named "Ake:"

...the relation of thematic role to word order were firmly incorporated into Ake's concepts of the grammar of the language, strongly suggesting knowledge of argument number. Overall, this set of findings underscores the robustness of comprehension by Ake of her learned language... [the test] required an understanding of grammatical and semantic relations and of pragmatic issues deriving from the link between thematic role and syntactic position.

Ake, in other words, is grammatically smarter than many adult humans as is evidenced by the fact that many human beings no longer have any ability to parse meaningful concepts from language and instead are nothing more than "hypnosis subjects" who punch cards at the voting booths.

My brother is good, and the cow is food. This is my universal love. Why? But a Krsna conscious person, he sees, "Oh, here is a cow. Here is a dog. He's a part and parcel of Krsna. By some way or other he has got a different body than me. That does not mean he's not my brother. So how can I kill my brother?"

~ Srila Prabhupada (Bhagavad-gita 6.30-34 -- February 19, 1969, Los Angeles)

Source

Mike Adams, Natural News, Aug. 9, 2013

Timothy Bancroft-Hinchey, Pravda.Ru

The dolphin's grammatical competency: Comments on Kako (1999), Louis M. Herman And Robert K. Uyeyama, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii, *Animal Learning & Behavior*, 1999, 27 (1), 18-23

Meeri Kim August 6, 2013, Dolphins can recognize calls from old tank mates from 20 years ago, study finds, *The Washington Post*

And prevention of cruelty to animals means not to be cruel to the cats and dogs. And for the other animals, "Oh, there is no question of cruelty. They have no soul. Kill them." This is your civilization, Dog civilization.
~ Srila Prabhupada (*Srimad-Bhagavatam* 2.9.14 -- April 13, 1972, Melbourne)

5.

Bullfighter's Remorse

Ends His Bloody Career

Bullfighting is a bloody sport in which an innocent animal is brutally murdered in front of a sick, baying crowd. The bullfighters are known as Matadors and they have a celebrity status. There are cases where bullfighters underwent a change of heart, at some point in their vicious career. One such person is Alvaro Munera.

This incredible photo marks the end of Matador Torero Alvaro Munera's career. He collapsed in remorse mid-fight when he realized he was having to prompt this otherwise gentle beast to fight. He went on to become an avid opponent of bullfights.



The look on this bull's face says it all. Even grievously wounded by picadors, he did not attack this man.

Torrero Munera is quoted as saying of this moment:

"And suddenly, I looked at the bull. He had this innocence that all animals have in their eyes, and he looked at me with this pleading. It was like a cry for justice, deep down inside of me. I describe it as

It was a strangely moving experience running side by side with a bull, close enough to touch, although that was frowned upon. He was pure-brown in colour and apparently totally ignorant of my existence at his flank, his whole being determined only to keep with his herd and get clear of this mass of humanity. The kinship I felt with him was purely physical, locomotory, but it was still more than superficial.

Later that evening I watched the one and only bullfight I will ever see in Pamplona. The party atmosphere from the streets was magnified in the ring. Not one, but six bands were in operation, each one from a different fan club celebrating. The fans themselves danced and shouted and swore and drank, half the time with their backs to the sand. The matadors valiantly tried to get their attention by fighting, but the bulls were so distracted by the noise - and being run through the streets that morning - that they were almost impossible to make charge. It was an ugly, barbaric thing.

And then the bull I had run beside came in, and although he was fought well, he refused to die, despite the sword being within him. As the crowd cheered and booed, swayed and screamed, he walked over to the planks and began a long, slow march around the ring, holding on to life as though with some internal clenched fist, refusing to give up, refusing to die. I had run next to this great animal, had matched myself to him as best I could, and in doing so felt some form of connection to the powers that propelled him. Now I watched them all turned inwards in an attempt to defy the tiny, rigid ribbon of steel within his chest, and having been blinded by no beauty, tricked by no displays of courage or prowess by the matadors, I just saw an animal trying to stay on its feet against the insuperable reality of death. I left the plaza de toros with tears in my eyes.

~ From 'Into The Arena: The World Of The Spanish Bullfight', published by Profile Books (UK). Serialised in The Sunday Independent.

being like a prayer - because if one confesses, it is hoped, that one is forgiven. I felt like the worst shit on earth.”

Just like sometimes we want to see a very pathetic scene in some drama, some ghastly scene. Somebody is murdering somebody and we take pleasure in seeing that. There are certain kinds of person... There are different kinds of sporting. One of our student in Montreal, he was saying that his father took pleasure in bull fighting in Spain. When the bull is killed by fighting, he was taking pleasure. So different kinds of men. One person is seeing, "It is horrible," another person is enjoying, "Oh, it is very nice." You see? So these are the demoniac pleasures.

Christ said, "Thou shall not kill," and they are sporting with the life of bull, and they are Christian. Such a Christian is trying to convert others as Christians. Just see the fun.

Jayatirtha: I think before the bullfighter goes to the ring, he first goes to the church and prays for blessings that he will be able to do very nicely.

Brahmananda: And everyone gets drunk.

Prabhupada: Christ advised not to kill and the result was that he was killed first. Who advised them not to kill, they were so civilized that they killed him first. Why he said, "Thou shall not kill"? That means the society was so ravaged that they were killing one another.

Ramesvara: In Roman times the wrestling was fought until somebody had to be killed. That was their entertainment. They wanted to see them die. Even today, actually, all the entertainment in America and the Western world is based on violence. In bull fighting, they want to see the bull tortured and killed. And they have chicken fighting, and they have...

Prabhupada: Dog fighting.

Ramesvara: And even the most popular sport in America now is football. It is more popular than baseball, and it's based on men jumping on each other. While one team is carrying the ball, every... A very violent sport.

Hari-sauri: And boxing also. So many different sports. They are fascinated by pain and fighting.

Prabhupada: Torture. They like to see that somebody is tortured by another.

Hari-sauri: All the movies are becoming increasingly more violent. And on TV.

(Room Conversation -- January 21, 1977, Bhubaneswar)

Alero Munera adds: “Chiquilon, another repentant bullfighter, claims to have seen bulls weeping. He says that he cannot kill even a fly nowadays. I take my hat off to that man. He’s a real hero who learned his lesson through reason and thinking.”

Reference

“El Pilarico” defiende a los animales luego de que un toro lo dejó inválido». El Universal. 6 de marzo de 2010.

6.

Animals Have A Soul

Don't Bring In Your Religious Beliefs, Use Common Sense

(In the following interview, His Divine Grace A.C.Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada explains how the animals have a soul just as we do.)

Prabhupada: Just like they, most religions, they say, "We believe." So what is this "believe"? You may believe something which is not naturally correct. Just like some of the Christian people, they say, "We believe there is no soul of the animal." That is not correct. You have believed because you want to eat the animal. You have discovered philosophy, but that's not the fact.

Mike Robinson: How do you know the animal has a soul?



Prabhupada: You can know also. What is the difference? How do you distinguish that the animal has no soul and the man has soul? How do you distinguish? How do you say the man has soul and the animal has no soul? How do you distinguish?

Mike Robinson: I believe the Christian religion do it because their scriptures say...

Prabhupada: Again you believe. Don't believe. When you say that the animal has no soul, but you believe or you know that man has soul, so what is the distinction between the man and the animal you find so that you say that the animal has no soul? What is your scientific conclusion? How do you say that animal has no soul?

Mike Robinson: As far as the Christian faith is concerned, doesn't it base it...

Prabhupada: Why are you bringing Christian?

Mike Robinson: Well, I thought you quoted Christianity. But as far as the Christian faith is concerned, don't they quote their scriptures?

Prabhupada: Then it is misleading. As soon as you say that "We Christians, we believe," then it is misbelief. It is not scientific.

Mike Robinson: Well how does it become scientific?

Prabhupada: Scientific because the animal eats; you eat. The animal sleeps; you sleep. The animals have sex; you have sex. The animal defends; you also defend. Then where is the difference between you and the animal? Why do you say there is no soul?

Mike Robinson: I can see that completely, but what I'm maybe querying is, for instance, the Christian scriptures would say that someone...

Prabhupada: Don't bring Christian scripture now. Simply just try to understand, that animal eats, you eat; and the animal sleeps, you sleep. The animals have sex; you have got sex. He also defends when he's attacked; you also defend. Then if the behavior of a living being is the same, how do you say that the animal has no soul? Why do you say like that, irresponsibly?

Mike Robinson: I see what you're getting at, but is that also...

Prabhupada: What is your answer, first of all?

Mike Robinson: [laughs] Well, my...

Prabhupada: Apart from your believing as Christian. As we are talking, as a scientist, how do you deny this animal has no soul?

Mike Robinson: But ultimately you're basing all your faith, factually, aren't you, on your reasoning?

Prabhupada: No, no, no. It is quite argumental logic, that the animal can eat; you can eat. The animal can sleep; you can sleep. The animal can have sex; you can have sex. The animal can defend; you can defend. So why do you deny this poor animal soul?

Mike Robinson: Well, perhaps if I put my point perhaps a slightly different way, if, by your reasoning, if... This is a hypothetical situation, but if you, by your reasoning, could imagine something that seemed contrary to the scriptures that you were reading earlier...

Prabhupada: Again scripture. Why do you bring scripture?

Mike Robinson: Well, I'm referring to your scripture, not...

Prabhupada: Not my scripture; it is common sense, talking.

Mike Robinson: Yes, but everything that you..., occurs in...

Prabhupada: No, forget that everything. Come to the common platform of understanding. The animal is eating; you are eating. The animal sleeping; you are sleeping. The animal is defending; you are defending. The animal is having sex; you have sex. The animal have children; you have got children. You have got a living place; they have got a living place. So why do you say... If your body's cut, there is blood. If the animal body's cut, there is blood. So all the similarities are there. So why you deny one similarity? Analogy. Analogy means points of similarity. So this is logic. You have read logic? There is a chapter, analogy. Analogy means points of similarity. If the points of similarity are so many things, why one similarity should be avoided? That is not logic. That is not science.

Source

Radio Interview with Mike Robinson -- July 27, 1976, London

© BBTI

7.

Kind Hearted Animals

Stories Of Dolphins Rescuing Humans

There are many legends and, in more recent times, news reports of dolphins coming to the aid of humans in peril. Victims of shark attacks tell of dolphins rushing to the scene and repelling sharks with high-speed blows, and drowning swimmers have testified that dolphins lifted them to the surface to breathe.

A dolphin's sonar penetrates a human body, making our skeletons, lungs and heart visible (dolphins are even able to hear an embryo's heartbeat, and are especially fascinated by pregnant women). As fellow mammals, it is possible that dolphins recognise



similarities in humans, and understand that we are vulnerable to drowning and attacks from predators.

According to Dr Diana Reiss, one of the world's foremost dolphin experts, what we can say is that rescue behaviour in dolphins is not automatic or purely instinctual. "Dolphins make conscious decisions about when they intervene – they weigh up the situation and are selective about who and in which circumstances they help," she says.

Hardy Jones, a wildlife filmmaker and longtime campaigner against the Japanese dolphin slaughters, is one human who has benefited from dolphins' ability to detect our distress. In 2003, Hardy was filming a group of dolphins when he noticed a large shark approaching him in attack mode. Four dolphins swept in to protect him. Hardy was able to capture the rescue on camera (his footage is available on youtube).

Dolphins sometimes repeatedly ram sharks to kill them or drive them away, but are rarely aggressive towards humans, even when provoked. In fact, dolphins are known to form protective rings around swimmers and surfers to guard them from sharks.



In 2004, the Guardian reported that four people were saved in New Zealand from a great white shark by a pod of dolphins which swam circles around them for forty minutes until the shark lost interest and swam away.

"They started to herd us up, they pushed all four of us together by doing tight circles around us," Rob Howes, who had taken his daughter and her two friends for a swim, told the New Zealand Press Association.

At first, Howes thought the dolphins were merely being playful, and he tried to swim away from the group. But two of the larger dolphins rushed to him and ushered him back into their protective

circle. It was at this moment that Howes noticed what the dolphins seemed to be concerned about – a 3 metre great white shark heading toward the group.

"I just recoiled," he said. "It was only about two metres away from me, the water was crystal clear and it was as clear as the nose on my face. They had corralled us up to protect us".

A reenactment of the rescue has been created for the BBC documentary "Saved by Dolphins".

Equally indebted to dolphins is Davide Ceci, a teenage boy who fell off the side of his parent's boat. Having never learned to swim, Davide was minutes from drowning when Filippo, a dolphin well known to locals in Manfredonia in south-east Italy, swam up underneath him and began pushing him up out of the water.

In 1981, under the auspices of the prestigious Dablen Conference in Berlin, approximately fifty noted psychologists, philosophers, and scientists met to address this very issue. The conference was entitled "Animal Mind/ Human Mind," and discussion focused on the concepts of experience and consciousness in relation to animal behavior. Or, as one conferee, Donald Griffin of Rockefeller University in New York City, put it, "What's it like to be an animal of a particular species?"

So, it's encouraging to see that the scientific community is cautiously beginning to confirm the Vedic truth of the spiritual unity of all living beings. But through their arduous process of research, the full understanding will be slow in coming, although that full understanding has been recorded for thousands of years in the Vedic literature. To properly study the animal mentality one must first understand his own identity beyond the temporary material body. In other words, the question shouldn't be, "What's it like to be an animal?" but "What does it mean to be a human being?" If the scientists can provide the answer to the second question, then they can save themselves from experiencing firsthand the answer to the first.

~ Dvarakadhisa Devi Dasi

"When I realised it was Filippo pushing me, I grabbed onto him," Davide told Scotland's Daily Record. Filippo drew close enough for Davide's father to reach down and pull Davide to safety.

Source

Australia For Dolphins, June 9, 2011

Susan Bird, September 29, 2014, Care 2

Ron Hirschi (April 2002). Dolphins. Marshall Cavendish.

Klinowska, Margaret; Cooke, Justin (1991). Dolphins, Porpoises, and Whales of the World.

"How smart are they?". Orlando Sentinel. March 7, 2010

Just like here we find love between mother and son, love between wife and husband, love between master and servant, love between friends and friend, love between the master and the dog or the cat or the cow. Same thing. These are only reflection of the spiritual world. The same thing is there. Krsna is also good lover of the animals, calves and cows. As we love here dogs and cats, Krsna loves there cows and calves. You have seen the picture of Krsna. So the propensity to love even an animal is there. Otherwise, how it can be reflected here? This is simply shadow reflection. If, in the reality, there is nothing like that, then how it can be reflected here?

*~ Srila Prabhupada (Lecture on Gurbastakam at Uppsala University
-- September 9, 1973, Stockholm)*

8.

Humans Are Not 'Smarter' Than Animals

We Just Don't Understand Them

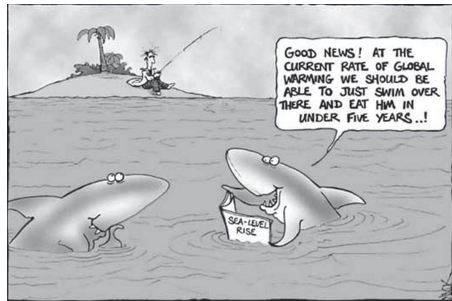
The Animal World Is Much More Complex Than We Give It Credit For

For many years, humans have believed we are the most intelligent beings on the planet. However, evolutionary biologists are now claiming that some members of the animal kingdom may in fact have superior brains - we just don't recognise their intelligence.

Scientists at the University of Adelaide argue that evidence is emerging to suggest some animals actually have cognitive faculties that are superior to those possessed by human beings.

“For millennia, all kinds of authorities – from religion to eminent scholars – have been repeating the same idea ad nauseam, that humans are exceptional by virtue and that they are the smartest in the animal kingdom,” says Dr Arthur

Saniotis, Visiting Research Fellow with the University's School of Medical Sciences.



"The belief of human cognitive superiority became entrenched in human philosophy and sciences. Even Aristotle, probably the most influential of all thinkers, argued that humans were superior to other animals due to our exclusive ability to reason.

"However, science tells us that animals can have cognitive faculties that are superior to human beings."

Dr Saniotis said although animal rights began rising to prominence in the 19th century, the Industrial Revolution may have forestalled any gains made in our awareness of other animals.

Professor Maciej Henneberg, a professor of anthropological and comparative anatomy from the School of Medical Sciences, highlighted the different abilities of animals that are misunderstood by humans.

He said: "Many quadrupeds leave complex olfactory marks in their environment, and some, like koalas, have special pectoral glands for scent marking.



Humans, with their limited sense of smell, can't even gauge the complexity of messages contained in olfactory markings, which may be as rich in information as the visual world.

"The fact that they may not understand us, while we do not understand them, does not mean our 'intelligences' are at different levels, they are just of different kinds. *When a foreigner tries to communicate with us using an imperfect, broken, version of our language, our impression is that they are not very intelligent. But the reality is quite different,*" Professor Henneberg says.

Prof Henneberg said another factor contributing to our belief was our fixation of technology and language, which have caused us to under-rate the different intelligences held by animals. "These include social and kinaesthetic intelligence. Some mammals, like

gibbons, can produce a large number of varied sounds - over 20 different sounds with clearly different meanings that allow these arboreal primates to communicate across tropical forest canopy. The fact that they do not build houses is irrelevant to the gibbons.”

He said domestic pets are also a prime example of the mental abilities of mammals and birds, because of their ability to communicate their demands to us and make us do things for them. The animal world is much more complex than we give it credit for.

Source

Heather Saul, Friday 13 December 2013, The Independent

Nature World News, Dec 05, 2013

<https://www.adelaide.edu.au/news/news67182.html>

Dominique Mosbergen, The Huffington Post, Dec 12, 2013

Svarupa Damodara: But someone may ask what about the dolphins and the seals. They are regarded as very intelligent and highly developed.

Prabhupada: Every living entity has a particular type of intelligence which is greater than the other.

Svarupa Damodara: No, in the evolutionary cycle. Talking about the...

Prabhupada: No, evolutionary cycle, the body may change, but every living entity has got a special advantage upon the others.

Ravindra-svarupa: What is the advantage of a tree, Srila Prabhupada?

Prabhupada: You see how they are standing there for five thousand years. You cannot do it. You cannot do it even for five minutes.

~ Srila Prabhupada (Morning Walk -- July 14, 1975, Philadelphia)

9.

There Should Be An International Court to Try Cases of Animal Cruelty

Says Oxford Ethicist

“Humanitarian organizations worldwide should collaborate in setting up an international court to judge cases of animal cruelty and specifically to assess the culpability of governments”, says Oxford ethicist Professor Andrew Linzey, Director of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics.

“Individuals and groups should be able to bring cases before the court where governments have failed to take reasonable steps to prevent systematic and widespread occurrence of cruelty to animals. The court would consist of eminent humanitarians drawn from the legal and veterinary professions, together with ethicists, philosophers, theologians, and those accomplished in anticruelty work worldwide.”



“Although animal protection is obviously a matter of global concern, animal protectionists have sometimes been slow in recognizing this fact and have contented themselves with working on an issue-by-issue, country-by-country basis. But what this approach neglects is the need for international strategies to tackle what are global problems.”

The call is made in Professor Linzey's Introduction to The Global Guide to Animal Protection published by the University of Illinois Press.

“Government and industries found guilty (or who fail to participate in the hearings) would be named and shamed and placed on a register. Like Amnesty International's published list of countries that allow torture, the register would focus attention not only on the distressing fact of cruelty itself, but also on the culpability of governments and industries in justifying and supporting cruelty.

The Global Guide to Animal Protection is the result of collaboration between the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics, a world-wide association of academics from all disciplines, and the University of Illinois Press. Raising awareness of human indifference and cruelty toward animals, The Global Guide includes more than 180 introductory articles that survey the extent of worldwide human exploitation of animals from a variety of perspectives.

The Global Guide to Animal Protection is an interdisciplinary compendium of worldwide animal rights issues.

Source

Samantha Calvert, Steve Fast Religion Press Release Services, Jan. 3, 2014

You cannot escape. If you have killed one man...that distinction is imperfect because this is man-made law. Man-made law, they're taking consideration of the man being killed. Why not an animal? The animal is also a living entity. The man is also a living entity. So if you have law that if a man kills another man he must be killed, why not if a man kills an animal he should be killed also? What is the reason? This is man-made law, defective. But there cannot be defect in God-made laws. God-made law, if you kill an animal, you are equally punishable as you kill a man. That is God's law. There is no excuse that... when you kill a man you are punishable, but when you kill an animal you are not punishable. This is concoction. This is not perfect law. Therefore Lord Jesus Christ prescribes in the Ten Commandments: "Thou shalt not kill." That is the perfect law.

~ Srila Prabhupada (Srimad-Bhagavatam 6.1.8-13 -- July 24, 1971, New York)

10.

A Sad Dog

That Goes To Church Everyday

It's not every day you'll see a dog in church, but in the small town of San Donaci near Brindisi, Italy, it's a regular occurrence. A 12 year-old German Shepherd named Tommy goes to mass nearly every day and sits patiently by the altar. He goes there out of love for he is just waiting for his master. It's here he last saw his master, Maria.

Her funeral was held here.

Now, he diligently waits for his master to come back. He curls up by the altar to wait for Maria.

Tommy is there every day and waits patiently through all of the church services, keeping a silent watch and waiting for her.





“Nothing breaks my heart more than to see a dog like this in mourning”, says a local resident.

Source

Lvly Lucia, The Daily Mail, January 19, 2014

pawnation.com

January 17, 2014

Every living entity has the propensity to love someone. We can see that if someone has no object of love, he generally directs his love to a pet animal like a cat or a dog. Thus the eternal propensity for love in all living entities is always searching for a place to reside. From this verse we can learn that we can love the Supreme Personality of Godhead as our dearmost object -- as a friend, as a son, as a preceptor or as a well-wisher -- and there will be no end to such love. We shall eternally enjoy the relationship with the Supreme Lord in different aspects.

~ Srila Prabhupada (Srimad Bhagavatam 3.25.38)

11.

The Incredible True Story of the Girl Raised by Monkeys

The Girl With No Name - A Victim of A Heartless Humanity's Betrayal

Her story starts with her earliest memory. She was four; squeezing pods until the peas popped in their allotment that bordered the village. A black hand suddenly clamped a damp



white cloth over her nose and mouth; as she tried to scream the hand pushed harder and the sky turned black.

And Marina's monkey memories weren't confined to dinner table conversation. According to Vanessa (Marina's daughter), her mother still, at times, behaves as if she were still in the jungle.

'We've always known how mum is and it's hard to believe she was raised normally,' she adds. 'She loves climbing trees and having fun and adventures.

'She just has different priorities and she really struggles with lying. It's all very practical so that kind of makes sense with her background.'

And despite the passage of more than half-a-century since her jungle childhood, Vanessa says her mother has never lost her love for the Capuchins who raised her.

'Her passion and excitement for them has never died down,' she explains. 'But she has forgotten the language and a lot of the culture.'

Rather wonderfully, Vanessa also tells of her mother's overwhelming excitement when confronted by the chance to see monkeys – even in a zoo.

'We would go to Monkey World, and she wouldn't speak all day,' remembers Vanessa. 'She'd be planning to jump over the fence and her pockets would be full of fruit and feed.'

She would even display monkey-like behaviour with her children, and, according to Vanessa, would spend hours grooming them.

'When we were growing up, it all seemed normal, including family grooming time when she would scratch our backs and pick through our hair,' she reveals.

'She would play with animals all the time, climb trees and you could see that she climbs in a different [monkey style] way.'

Unconventional though her own childhood might have been, Vanessa, who co-authored her mother's autobiography, wouldn't change a second of it.

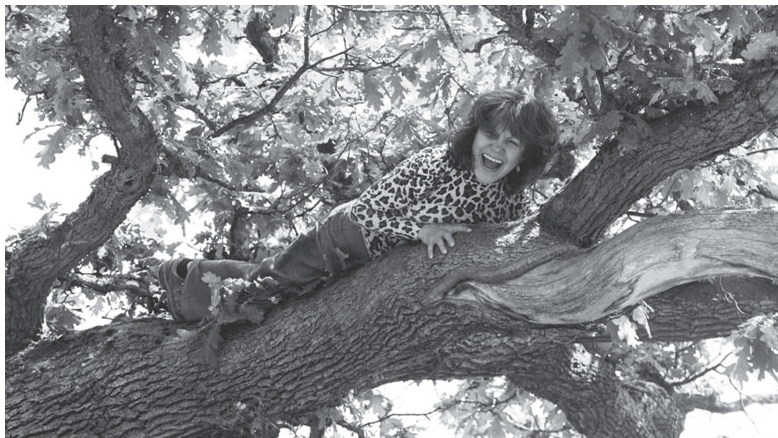
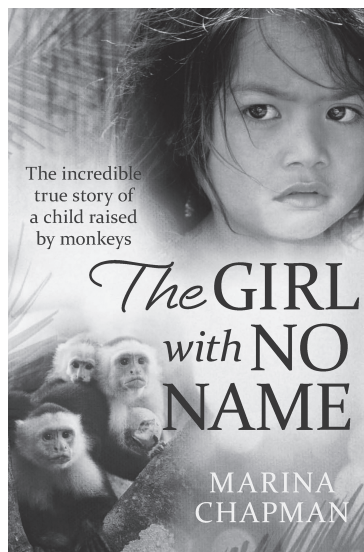
'It was the best,' she enthuses, adding: 'I wouldn't want to change anything – I definitely had a cool mum!'

'Her perspective on life is really different: she never pities and she doesn't judge. She raised us to be really strong and that's a great way to grow up.'

~ The Daily Mail, 5 December 2013

Marina's kidnappers abandoned her deep in a remote Colombian jungle. Surrounded by terrifying noises and trapped by its sheer suffocating denseness, half-drugged and starving, Marina tried to find her way home. She searched for food and water along the way, competing with big cats, poisonous spiders, giant pythons, extraordinary insects and huge bats.

Two days later, she was confronted by about twenty curious capuchin monkeys. By following them and copying what they ate and drank, their social activities, their language, Marina gradually became part of the family for five extraordinary years. They fought, played and shared tender and terrifying experiences. Marina developed extraordinary super-human abilities such as tree-climbing, stealth and animal communication.



By the time she was found, five years later, she could no longer communicate with humans and was living a wild Mowgli-style existence.

Discovered by a pair of hunters, she was sold into slavery in exchange for a parrot. She escaped from her abusive captors after a year and fled to the concrete jungle of Cucuta, Colombia's most lawless city, where she lived on the streets, picking pockets to survive, eventually leading her own gang of thieves.

This was only the start of Marina's breathtaking story, a story that doesn't let up for a single moment. From being forced to work in a brothel in Colombia's most dangerous town to cooking the Duke of Kent the 'best quiche I've ever had', from encountering pythons, crocodiles and big cats in the wilds of Colombia to surviving car crashes and bombs on the streets of Cucuta to scrambling up the trees of Bradford, England, from facing three seemingly insurmountable



Sometimes one loses his money on a public street, where everyone can see it, and yet his money is protected by destiny and not seen by others. Thus the man who lost it gets it back. On the other hand, if the Lord does not give protection, even money maintained very securely at home is lost. If the Supreme Lord gives one protection, even though one has no protector and is in the jungle, one remains alive, whereas a person well protected at home by relatives and others sometimes dies, no one being able to protect him.

~ Srimad Bhagavatam 7.2.40

tragedies to finally finding love in the UK, Marina's inspirational and astonishing story is truly unforgettable.

A new National Geographic documentary that sheds further light on Marina's extraordinary story and reveals what happened when she finally returned to the Colombian jungle more than half a century later.

In year 2013, Marina caused a furore when her incredible story came to light following the publication of her autobiography, *The Girl With No Name*.

Source

Lynne Barrett-Lee, Marina Chapman

Ruth Styles, *The Daily Mail*, 5 December 2013

Philip Sherwell and Josie, *the Daily Telegraph*; 28 Oct 2012

Payne, Terry. "Monkeys: is this granny from Bradford telling the truth?" *Radio Times*. 12 December 2013.

Hattenstone, Simon, *The Guardian*. 12 April 2013.

"Woman Raised By Monkeys." *National Geographic*, 23 February 2014.

12.

Reading You Like A Book

Horses are great at reading body language, even that of the humans around them – in fact a horse known as ‘Clever Hans’ was able to answer mathematical questions by tapping his hoof, based on the very subtle signals given out by the person asking the question! Even though they didn’t mean to give any secret messages to the horse, he could read small changes in facial expression or intakes of breath – and then work out what the right answer was!



Clever Hans

At the time, people thought he was working out the maths himself, and were disappointed to learn that he was reading their body language instead. But the fact that Hans could answer the questions by this method is in itself amazing. He was seeing small changes in the behaviour of his questioners which people did not see – and it took an extensive experiment for us to find out what Hans knew all along.

Other animals are also more tuned in to us than we might expect. In a study called sociable sheep we found out that sheep preferred the faces of smiling people rather than stressed or angry people.

This leads us to consider, how much do animals really know about what we're thinking?

Source:

Clever Hans (BBC), Jan 14, 1994

McGreevy (2004) *Equine Behaviour: A Guide for Veterinarians and Equine Scientists*.

Pfungst, O. (1911). *Clever Hans (The horse of Mr. von Osten): A contribution to experimental animal and human psychology* (Trans. C. L. Rahn). New York: Henry Holt.

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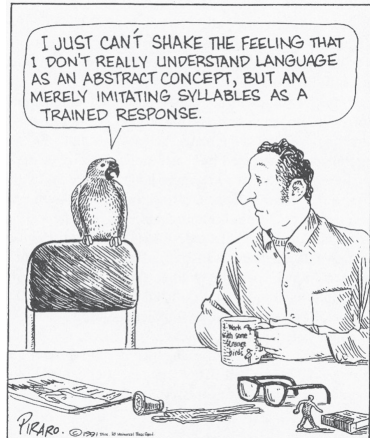
13.

Learning The Language

If by the word ‘language’ we mean a system of communication, animals have different languages of their own. Hens and chickens have over 30 different calls, which they use to alert their group to food or danger, for example. Chicks start communicating with their mother hen while they are still in the egg and cockerels have a special food call to let the hens know that food has been found. Hens make a gentle crowing sound when they are happy.

Pigs are very chatty, communicating with grunts, squeals, snarls and snorts, champing their jaws and clacking their teeth. Sows have a special call for their piglets when it’s time for the piglets to suckle. Sows and piglets keep contact with each other and with their mother by squeals and grunts. If piglets are separated from Mum, they squeal for her. Scientists found that sows

responded more strongly to the desperate squeals from cold, hungry piglets than they did to calls from larger, more well-fed piglets.



Animals can also understand each other's language. For example, animals can understand the meaning of another's alarm call.

Dogs and humans have a long history of living together. While dogs are often quick at picking up what humans are saying – perhaps by the tone of voice rather than by all the actual words – we humans often seem to struggle to understand dog 'bark language.'

Source

Witzany, G., ed. (2014). *Biocommunication of Animals*. Dordrecht: Springer

Krulwich, Robert. "New Language Discovered: Prairiedogese".

"Do animals have language? - Michele Bishop". TED Ed. 10 September 2015.

Hayagriva: For Descartes, animals are mere machines that react. He felt that they have no souls or minds, and hence no consciousness at all, and the basis for this view is ratiocination, language. In other words, because they have no language, they simply act as machines.

Prabhupada: They have languages, but you do not understand them.

~ Srila Prabhupada (Dialectical Spiritualism, Rene Descartes)

14.

Musical Appreciation

Not Unique To Humans

Animals Are Biologically Programmed To Appreciate Pleasant Music.

Sakura, a baby chimpanzee, is showing that chimps prefer melodic music. During a research trial to see which kind of music Sakura would chose, she preferred to listen to a pleasant melody than to discordant musical chords.

The discovery comes from experiments showing that the infant chimpanzee prefers to listen to consonant music over dissonant music.

That suggests the apes are born with an innate appreciation of pleasant sounds, say scientists in the journal *Primates*.



Until now, this was thought to be a universal human trait, but the new finding suggests it evolved in the ancestors of humans and modern apes.

Tasuku Sugimoto and Kazuhide Hashiya of Kyushu University in Hakozaki and colleagues in Japan tested how a young captive chimpanzee named Sakura responded to music as she aged from 17 weeks to 23 weeks old.

Sakura had been abandoned by her mother, forcing members of the staff at Itozu-no-mori Park in Fukuoka where she lived to care for her.

Crucially, she had never been exposed to any form of music before she took part in the trials.

During the experiments, Sakura lay on a bed while a woollen string was attached to her right hand, allowing the infant chimp to pull on the cord at will.

A music player and speakers was then set up around her, playing melodies lasting between 38 and 63 seconds long. Every time Sakura pulled on the cord, the music would be repeated.

During six trials, conducted one a week for six weeks with each lasting around 20 minutes, the researchers played Sakura a range of tunes.

One was a 38 second minuet from *Duette Englischer Meister* in F major. Another, a 38 second minuet from a handwritten sheet of German music composed in 1720.

These consonant tunes were also adjusted using orchestration software to make them dissonant. For example, all the Gs in the 38 second *Duette Englischer Meister* music were altered to G-flat and all the Cs to C-flat, creating 32 dissonant intervals. In three of the six trials, the researchers first played Sakura the more pleasant

Hens can anticipate the future too. Researchers carried out an experiment where hens could either get a smaller food treat more quickly, or wait a little longer to get a bigger treat. The hens decided to wait!

consonant music and in the others, they started with the less pleasant sounding dissonant music.

Play it again

Across all six sessions, Sakura pulled on the cord to voluntarily listen to the pleasurable music significantly more often than to the dissonant passages.

“Our main surprise was the results being so consistent,” says Hashiya. “She rapidly learnt the rule of the setup and consistently produced consonant music over dissonant music for longer duration.”



The discovery that an infant chimp, with no prior exposure to music, innately prefers to listen to consonant melodies could have important implications for how an appreciation for music evolved.

“Music is one of the universal human natures beyond cultures, just like language,” says Hashiya.

But it was always thought that it was a uniquely human trait, one present even in babies just a few days old.

“The preference for consonant music over dissonant music in an infant chimpanzee has implications for the debate surrounding

Haihaya: Some people say that what make us different from the animals is that we can enjoy art and we can enjoy music, and we can enjoy all type of art and...

Prabhupada: The animals... The snake also can enjoy music. Do you know that? You play very nice music, a snake will be charmed. It will stand. It will not attack you. Similarly the deers... The hunters, they play very nice music, and the deers assemble to hear, and then they shoot and kill them.

So these deer, snakes and many other animals are very much fond of music. They enjoy.

(Morning Walk -- May 30, 1974, Rome)

human uniqueness in the capacity for music appreciation,” the researchers write in *Primates*.

Experiments have shown that various bird species can differentiate between consonant and dissonant sounds, but they do not actively prefer listening to one over the other.

Other research on cotton-top tamarin monkeys also found no such preference.

But Sakura’s appreciation for consonant melodies “specifically suggests that one of the major factors that constitute musical appreciation might not be unique to humans: instead it might be something that we share with our phylogenetically closest relatives,” say the researchers.

Hashiya explains that it is very difficult to rule out whether young human infants have had prior exposure to music on the radio or in their family’s house before they are tested.

“To figure out the response of Sakura, we have to consider her lack of music experience, which should draw a clear contrast with ordinary human infants. It supports the view that the preference is independent of cultural experience,” he says.

The researchers hope to study the effect further.

For now they speculate that the chimps’ innate preference for pleasurable melodies may serve some biological function in the wild, perhaps helping them detect other chimps’ voices above other sounds, for example.

Sakura Is Not Alone

Sakura is not alone in preferring sweet music. Back in 2001, there was research investigating how cows reacted to fast beats or to softer music. The researchers said: “We found that slow music improved milk yields perhaps because it relaxes the cows in much the same way as it relaxes humans.”

Despite increasing awareness of animal sentience, there is still resistance to appreciating or acknowledging that animals are sentient beings and there is reluctance to peer over the barrier of “human vs other animals” that we ourselves have created.

It was previously thought that this kind of choice and preference about music was a “uniquely human trait.” So we see that Sakura and the dairy cows have overcome yet another barrier!

Source

Matt Walker

Editor, Earth News, BBC, 30 July 2009

Primatographer, 1 August 2009

Preference for consonant music over dissonant music by an infant chimpanzee, Tasuku Sugimoto, Hiromi Kobayashi, Noritomo Nobuyoshi, Yasushi Kiriya, Graduate School of Human-Environment Studies, Primates. 08/2009; 51(1):7-12.

15.

Animals

Dancing With Your Feet Is One Thing, But Dancing With The Heart Is Another

Humans Aren't The Only Creatures With A Sense Of Rhythm.

It's not often that YouTube spurs a scientific breakthrough, but that's what happened when Aniruddh Patel, PhD, saw a video of Snowball, a sulphur-crested cockatoo, stepping side to side on the back of an armchair, bobbing his head and kicking his feet in time to "Everybody," by the Backstreet Boys.

YouTube abounds with amusing animal videos, but this one was special, says Patel, a researcher at the Neurosciences Institute in San Diego. Scientists have long thought that only humans have the ability to move in time with music. Our closest genetic cousins, chimps, don't move to music. Neither do dogs or cats, even though they've lived and evolved alongside humans for millennia.



"I thought it was remarkable, so I contacted the owner, and we ran an experiment," says Patel.

His resulting paper, published in *Current Biology* (Vol. 19, No. 1), showed that Snowball moved in time with music, adjusting his pace when researchers slowed down or sped up the song. That's an important finding, says Ahalya Hejmadi, PhD, a psychology professor at the University of Maryland University College, and it's among a new wave of dance research that is helping scientists understand the way the brain coordinates movement. Such dance research could even lead to new therapies for people with movement disorders, adds Patel, noting that some people with Parkinson's disease who generally can't move at all can walk in time to music.

An Internet Superstar

The 13-year-old bird likes nothing better than bobbing up and down while shaking and tapping his feet to pop and rock music.

His dancing antics have made him an internet superstar while scientists are hailing his moves as proof that humans aren't the only creatures with a sense of rhythm.

Grooving to music by artists including Queen, the Backstreet Boys and Lady Gaga, the sulphur-crested Eleonora bobs his head, steps to the side, lifts his leg and shakes his body with impeccably good timing.

Now researchers have timed his rhythm to establish just how good a dancer Snowball is.

Using scientific measurements of synchronisation, they proved that the musical beats and dancing were linked up.

I worked in an office where we had an 8 year old African Gray parrot keeping us company. He would not only dance to music (usually country) if the radio or an ipod was playing, but in quiet lulls, he would start whistling/clucking his own tune AND dancing to the tune he created. He would do it unprompted and I don't believe he had ever been trained to dance to his own made up music.

~ Audry Chloavasky

Who Else? Rhinos? Chimps? Owls?

Which immediately raised the next question: Who else can do this? Adena Schachner, then a psychology grad student at Harvard, went back to YouTube and started gathering. She amassed 5,000 video clips of different animals (very different — horses, cats, albatrosses, chimps, orangutans ...), all purportedly dancing. And using the same analytical tools, after eliminating nonmusical, autonomic and overly trained contestants, she narrowed the field to 39 animals who seemed to be spontaneously moving to a beat.

Twenty-nine of them were parrots. So Snowball was not a one-of-a-kind genius. Fourteen different species of parrot produced real dancers. All the rest (the remaining four) were elephants. Asian elephants.

People often suggest dancing as an example of activities that are uniquely human. Many species like the bird of paradise have various sorts of mating rituals, which could be described as “dances” by analogy. But dancing means something more specific: the “rhythmic entrainment to music”. In other words, dancing isn’t only moving the body in some stereotyped or over-learned fashion. Dancing requires that an individual moves his or her arms, legs, and body

I really don't think you need science to confirm what I've already confirmed in my own living room. I was jamming to some Flock of Seagulls once when I was in high school, and I looked over and my cockatiel, yes COCKATIEL, was rocking out on his own. Since then, we've danced to many different songs together, but he has his favorites (mostly industrial and German synth pop). He picks and chooses what he wants to dance to, but when we put on his favorite song of all time, he freaks out (he's even recently started mimicking some of the sounds in the song!). He does an okay job of staying on the beat, and when we put a slower song on, he knows he needs to slow down his moves. Normally he's pretty shy about dancing in front of other people, but one day I was showing a video of him dancing to a bunch of people we had over, and he started dancing in front of everyone to the music on the video!
~Jen Michel

in sync with a musical beat. All human cultures ever encountered can do this, and until recently we thought this talent or ability was unique to our species.

Source

Jason G Goldman, BBC, 30 October 2012

Jane J. Lee in Chicago, National Geographic, Feb 17, 2014

Douglas Main, Staff Writer, August 21, 2013, LiveScience

Daily Mail Reporter, 5 July 2011

Robert Krulwich, April 1, 2014,

Sadie F. Dingfelder, Monitor Staff, Dance, dance evolution

2010, Vol 41, No. 4

Print version: page 40

During the Lord Caitanya's movement, when He passed through a great forest known as Jharikhanda... Central India there is a great forest. Along with Him, the tigers, the elephants, the deers, everyone danced and chanted Hare Krsna mantra. It is so nice, and it is so spiritual, the very vibration will immediately enthuse your ecstasy in spiritual consciousness.

~ Srila Prabhupada (Ratha-yatra -- June 27, 1971, San Francisco)

16.

Dog Who Ran Away From Home To Find His Dead Master's Grave

A faithful dog has refused to leave the side of his dead master's grave for six years, according to news reports.

German shepherd Capitan ran away from home after the death of Argentinian Miguel Guzman in 2006.

A week later Mr Guzman's family went to pay their respects and found the heartbroken pet sitting by his owner's grave, wailing.

Since then the grieving dog has rarely left the spot at the cemetery in the town of Villa Carlos Paz, central Argentina.



Mr Guzman bought Capitan as a present for his 13-year-old son Damian in 2005.

He died suddenly in March the next year, but by the time his family had returned home from the funeral, Capitan was gone.

Mr Guzman's widow Veronica told Argentina's Cordoba newspaper: 'We searched for him but he had vanished. We thought he must have got run over and died.'

'The following Sunday we went to the cemetery and Damian recognised his pet. Capitan came up to us, barking and wailing, as if he were crying.'

She added: 'We had never taken him to the cemetery so it is a mystery how he managed to find the place.'

'We went back the next Sunday, and he was there again. This time, he followed us home and spent a bit of time with us, but then went back to the cemetery before it started getting dark.'

'I don't think he wanted to leave Miguel on his own at night.'

The cemetery's director Hector Baccega remembers the day he first saw the dog.

He said: 'He turned up here one day, all on his own, and started wandering all around the cemetery until he eventually found the tomb of his master.'

'During the day he sometimes has a walk around the cemetery, but always rushes back to the grave. And every day, at six o'clock sharp, he lies down on top of the grave stays there all night.'



Mr Baccega said staff at the cemetery are now feeding and taking care of Capitan.

Mr Guzman's son Damian said: 'I've tried to bring Capitan home several times, but he always comes straight back to the cemetery. I think he's going to be there until he dies too. He's looking after my dad.'

The story is similar to that of Hachiko, an Akita who is said to have waited at a Tokyo train station for its master to return each

When Spot sees Timmy riding his bike up the street, he leaps up and races to the front gate. Frantically dancing around the boy, pressing affectionately against him, he accompanies him to the front door, where Timmy disappears inside the house.

Spot gazes after him mournfully, giving a reproachful "Woof." After a few hopeful minutes, he resigns himself to his loss and resettles himself beneath the porch.

Spot's behavior is typical, as every dog lover will attest: man's best friend has unwavering devotion for his beloved master. Yet according to many authorities (including Timmy's father), Spot, being only an animal, doesn't have feelings; he's little more than a furry machine that reacts automatically to various stimuli. He doesn't have feelings like we do, merely conditioned responses. Nevertheless, he puts on a good show, sometimes seeming to perceive Timmy's emotional needs more astutely than Timmy's own family members. He seems to understand and relate to Timmy with far more sensitivity than Timmy's fourteen-year-old sister, for example, and Timmy's relationship with Spot constitutes Timmy's most satisfying friendship. So how can it be that Spot has no feelings?

Can an elephant feel sorrow? Do butterflies have worries or aspirations? Can you embarrass a squirrel, or a tiger, or a whale? What do animals think about? Or do they think at all? How is it that certain animals display such humanlike characteristics? These questions, although often asked by precocious six-year-olds, are generally considered to fall within the realm of speculative fiction and have long been ignored by investigative scientists.

~ Dvarakadhisa devi dasi

day for nine years from May 1925, following owner Hidesaburo Ueno's death at work.

Source

Matt Roper, The Daily Mail

13 September 2012

Sarah Medina, The Huffington Post, 09/14/2012

Martha, Dog Heirs

Katie Kindelan, Good Morning America, ABC News, September 14, 2012

17.

Understanding You

And Thanking You

This is the incredible story of a whale rescue and the response of the whale to her rescuers. San Francisco Chronicle carried it on their front page.

The humpback whale was on the migratory route around the California coast when she became terribly entangled in crab trap lines. Her life was at great risk.

She was tangled up in weighted ropes up to 240 feet long around her tail, her flipper and even in her mouth. The ropes were so tight they cut into her blubber and caused visible wounds. She was

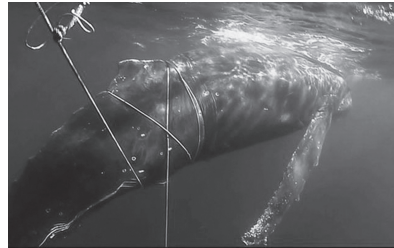


completely helpless and the weight of the traps was causing her to struggle to keep her blow hole out of the sea.

A rescue team of divers went out to her but she was in such a state they were unsure that they stood any chance of saving her. They were at risk themselves, as the flick of a humpback's tail can kill a human.

But they reported that as they worked to free the unfortunate creature, she did not struggle at all and they were aware of her eyes simply following them around as they worked.

Thankfully, the rescuers were successful but must have been astonished by the whale's heartwarming response. When she felt herself come free, she began to swim around in circles and then went up to each diver one by one and nudged them. One of the rescuers is reported as saying: "It seemed kind of affectionate, like a dog that's happy to see you ... I never felt threatened. It was an amazing, unbelievable experience."



Her response makes us think about the common ground that humans can have with animals who might appear so very different from us. A whale-watching expert who helped co-ordinate the rescue is quoted as saying: "You hate to anthropomorphize too much but the whale was doing little dives and the guys were rubbing shoulders with it ... I don't know for sure what it was thinking, but it's something that I will always remember. It was just too cool."

An interesting point about our understanding of these large sea mammals was made by Gould and Gould in their book 'The Animal Mind'. They suggest that perhaps we have been quicker to appreciate the intelligence and sentience of primates as they are so much more similar to us in their gestures and experiences, and therefore easier for us to read. We may have been slower to understand the

complexity and richness of underwater creatures simply because they appear to be so very different to us.

Sources:

San Francisco Chronicle (14/12/05). Daring rescue of whale off Farallones. Accessed 17/12/09.

Samantha Ellis on November 26, 2013, Global Animal

Gould, J. L. and Gould, C. G. (1994) *The Animal Mind*. Scientific American Library, New York.

So the hunters, some of the hunters, they also kill the animal half. So they take pleasure. I have seen in my own eyes in Calcutta. One hotel man was cutting the throat of a chicken and half-cut, and the half-dead chicken was jumping like this, and the man was laughing. His little son, he was crying. I have seen it. He was crying. Because he's innocent child, he could not tolerate. He was crying. And the father was saying, "Why you are crying? Why you are crying? It is very nice." Just see. So without being devotee a man will become cruel, cruel, cruel, cruel, cruel, in this way go to hell. And devotee cannot tolerate. And in Western countries I think students are sometimes taken to slaughterhouse to see. Is it a fact? Yes. You see. They take pleasure. Doing something sinful, they take pleasure.

We have studied in the life of Lord Jesus Christ. When he saw that in the Jewish synagogue the birds were being killed, he became shocked. He therefore left. He inaugurated the Christian religion. Perhaps you know. He was shocked by this animal-killing. And therefore his first commandment is "Thou shall not kill." But the followers, instead of following his instruction, they are opening daily slaughterhouse.

—Sriila Prabhupada (Lecture, *Srimad-Bhagavatam* 7.9.52, Vrndavana,

18.

Every Toad Matters!

London Road Closed Off To All Traffic To Let Amphibians Cross Safely To Their Breeding Grounds

No Act Of Kindness Is Too Small

Road closures are an all too familiar sight for many motorists, but commuters attempting to drive down this London route found it sealed off so that migrating toads could cross safely.

The road in Richmond, south west London, has been sealed off to drivers to allow the amphibians to safely reach their breeding ground.



Volunteer 'toad crossing' patrols have also been called in to make sure the mating toads can safely complete their annual trek from Richmond Park to a breeding pond on Ham Common, 330metres away.

Armed with flashlights and buckets, the volunteers, supported by Richmond Council and chairty Froglife, are on hand to collect the toads and ferry them across the road where they can find their own way to the pond.

It has been estimated that the scheme has saved hundreds of toads by preventing them from being run over by passing motorists or cyclists.

This is the fourth successive year that Richmond Council has shut the street to allow toads to cross, with the road closure coming into effect last week.

Council chiefs have written to households affected during the three week closure, warning them they will face disruption due to the toads until April 4.

The decision to close the road for the first time was made after neighbours reported large numbers of toads being killed by traffic.



'Richmond is the greenest and most beautiful borough in London and we are blessed with lively wildlife habitats,' said Richmond Council's Chris Harrison.

'The migration is driven by the weather as the toads like moist conditions which mean it's difficult to predict exact dates and times.

'However, we will do our best to avoid inconvenience for the public. I hope residents enjoy the spectacle of the toads as they go about their journey and would like to thank residents for their understanding as to why it is essential to temporarily close the road.'



Richmond Council has received funding from Natural England's Higher Level Stewardship Scheme

We are all living beings. We are in different dresses. Just like you are European; you have got a different dress. I am an Indian; I have got a different dress. But dress is not consideration. You are a human being; I am a human being. Similarly, all the living entities, they are dressed in 8,400,000's of dresses. But they are living being. And all the living beings are part and parcel of God.

*jalaja nava laksani
sthavara laksa vimsati
krmayo rudra-sankhyakah
paksinam dasa laksanam
trimsal laksani pasavah
catur laksani manusah*

There are 900,000 kinds of aquatics, 2,000,000 kinds of trees and plants, 1,100,000 kinds of insects and reptiles, 1,000,000 kinds of birds, 3,000,000 kinds of four-legged beasts, and 400,000 kinds of human species.

—Srla Prabhupada

towards creating a new pond at the centre of Ham Common Woods. The Council will 'encourage' the toads to spawn there.

Source

Lucy Crossley, The Daily Mail, 20 March 2014

Josie Ensor, The Telegraph, 10 Mar 2013

Peter Loftus, The Wall Street Journal, April 12, 2013

Alexandra Rucki, The Evening Standard, 21 March 2014

Jasper Kishumbua, NewEAC Blog, March 20, 2014

A small sample of God. Just like you take a drop of ocean water and you taste it, then you can understand immediately the whole ocean is salty. Similarly, if you analyze your characteristic, then the same characteristic is there in God. Just like you want to love someone. Everyone wants to love someone. Therefore it can be concluded that God has got the propensity to love. All living beings have this tendency to love, even an insignificant ant.

~ Srila Prabhupada (Room Conversation with Kenneth Keating -- October 14, 1972, New Delhi)

19.

Cobra Protects Puppies

That Fell Into A Well

This incident occurred in the Indian state of Punjab. Two puppies fell into a well. Their mother ran to the well and started barking frantically, attracting the attention of the passers by. They looked inside and to their horror saw a huge king cobra coiled near the puppies at the bottom of the well.

But after a while it became clear that the cobra didn't pose any threat to the puppies. Rather the reptile was looking after the puppies by not allowing them to cross to the other side, where they could possibly drown in deeper waters.

In general, they spent around 48 hours together at the bottom and in these 48 hours the cobra sat quietly next to them. When the help finally arrived from the forest department, the cobra slithered



to the other end of the well. The puppies were not injured at all and the reptile was also rescued along with them. He was taken into the woods and released.

Even the most deadly and dangerous creatures know how to coexist. The human race possibly could learn a thing or two from them.

Haridasa Thakura, a great devotee of Lord Sri Caitanya, used to live in such a cave, and by chance a great venomous snake was a co-partner of the cave. Some admirer of Thakura Haridasa who had to visit the Thakura every day feared the snake and suggested that the Thakura leave that place. Because his devotees were afraid of the snake and they were regularly visiting the cave, Thakura Haridasa agreed to the proposal on their account. But as soon as this was settled, the snake actually crawled out of its hole in the cave and left the cave for good before everyone present. By the dictation of the Lord, who lived also within the heart of the snake, the snake gave preference to Haridasa and decided to leave the place and not disturb him.

—Srla Prabhupada (Srimad Bhagavatam 2.2.5)

20.

Just Noosing Around!

Prankster Orangutan Pretends To Hang Himself In Front Of Horrified Zoo Spectators

A prankster orangutan had zoo visitors worried for a minute after feigning its own suicide in broad daylight.

The cheeky chimp was playing in its pen at Phoenix Zoo in Arizona when suddenly it grabbed a climbing rope and fashioned it into a noose.

The animal then proceeded to put the loop around its neck and jump from a height before hanging limp.

Sawyer Lawson from Meza, Arizona, quickly whipped his phone out to capture the stunt on camera.

In his video fellow spectators are heard squealing in the background.

'Don't do it, don't do it!' one concerned woman repeats.

But everyone soon realizes the whole thing is a trick as the monkey comes 'back to life'.

Sneakily using its arms to hold itself up and keep it from choking, the monkey then hauls itself back up the rope onto a wooden platform.





People are heard laughing in relief as the act comes to an end.

Mr Sawyer, who was on a zoo trip with his family, said even he was fooled by the ape for a moment.



Source

Sadie Whitelocks, The Daily Mail, 7 August 2014

Live Leak, Aug-6-2014

Sure News, August 9, 2014

In modern civilization, people are very busy. They are very active: "I am very running here and there. I am very busy," but running here and there in ignorance. Just like you will see the monkey. Monkey is always very busy, but what is the meaning of his busy-ness? He is in ignorance. As soon as a monkey comes... You have so such disturbance. In India, as soon as a monkey comes, everyone wants to drive him away. Because he has come to simply create some disturbance, break this or throw away that. That's all. That is his business. Wherever he sits, he will move like this. [makes sounds moving arms back and forth] He is not at all silent. He is always active.

~ Srila Prabhupada (Srimad-Bhagavatam 5.5.5 -- September 10, 1973, Stockholm)

21.

Depression In Animals

Parrot Psychologist Rescues A Depressed Bird

Roy the African Grey is put on Prozac after being left in a garage for three years because he kept repeating name of owner's dead wife

A parrot has been put on anti-depressants to recover from a state of manic trauma after being trapped in a garage for three years.

Roy was locked in a dog cage with little food or water as he kept screaming the name of his owner's dead wife over and over again - after the widower's new partner had moved in.

In captivity, with little food or water, the Congo African Grey was driven to near-insanity, pecking off all his feathers.

The 26-year-old bird is now being treated by Britain's only parrot psychologist Elaine Henley, who has started him on an intensive programme of pills.



Ms Henley, who provides respite for pets taken in by Parrot Rescue UK, saved Roy from imprisonment in the home in southern England. In more than 10 years treating birds as far away as Australia and America, Roy is the most disturbed pet she has encountered.

Ms Henley, 44, said: 'He's so traumatised from his years in the garage which he will never get over.'

Roy had been close to his owner Sarah before she died - and would not stop calling for her when she passed away.



But Sarah's widower eventually met somebody else, and decided to lock Roy away until they moved house three years later.

When they contacted Parrot Rescue UK to give him away, the in-house vets were shocked by his state.

Ms Henley said: 'After being left alone for all that time, Roy's new owners decided to give him up as they were moving house and didn't want to take him with them.'

'They called the charity and said "you need to come get this bird, we're off" and put him out on the doorstep and shut the door.'

'He was brought up to me because the charity said I was the only one who would be able to help such a traumatised bird.'

In a desperate bid to nurse him back to health, Ms Henley is lacing Roy's food with amitriptyline - a powerful anti-depressant similar to Prozac.

He is given 0.1ml of the drug a day.

'Before a vet prescribes the drug, though, they'll explore all other possible options that can be used to try stop their stress and troublesome behaviour,' she said.

Glasgow-based Ms Henley has even taken Roy in as her own.

After just a few weeks, he is already picking up her strong Scottish accent – shared by her existing pet parrot Milo.

She said: 'They're much smarter than people think.'

Source

Mia De Graaf, The Daily Mail, 29 March 2014

Rob Cypher, 29-03-2014, drugs-forum.com

Marthie, Parrot And Conure World, 2 April, 2014

The basic and transcendental equality of all conscious entities is not an abstract notion but is obvious to everyday sense perception—if only we look beyond the superficial differences in the varieties of material bodies. Anyone who has ever had a pet or visited the zoo has experienced that animals behave much like humans as they search for food, protect their young, play, sleep, and fight. The outstanding difference is that their intelligence and emotions are less developed, but this distinction is insufficient to discount the far more numerous and significant similarities in thinking, feeling, and willing that clearly point toward the universal equality of the consciousness within all bodies.

~ The Higher Taste (The Equality of All Living Beings)

22.

Compassion And Altruism

In Animal Kingdom

Your best friend is hit by a car on a busy freeway, right in front of you. Would you risk your own life to pull him or her to safety? That's exactly what one intrepid dog, did last year when he came to a friend's rescue by risking his own life to run into oncoming highway traffic.

What if you saw a mother and her baby drowning at the beach? Would you rush to their rescue? A dolphin named Moko did when she guided two beached whales into deeper waters off the coast of New Zealand.

Researchers at the University of Paris recently discovered that selflessness among animals like that heroic dog and Moko the dolphin—who put their own lives in danger in order to save others—is even more prevalent than we once thought. The examples of animal altruism are many and moving: Dolphins endanger themselves to rescue their trapped friends, ants help fellow



colony members when they're caught in traps or under attack from a predator (though we've known that insects were geniuses for a while now), female fruit bats help each other during labor to ease birth pains—and that's only a quick sampling.

Their selfless acts don't end with their own species either: Dogs will risk their lives to save their guardians, gorillas will care for human children, and one hears story after story about dolphins who come to the aid of swimmers and surfers. If animals can put aside the differences they have with us to help ensure our survival, isn't it about time we did the same?

Source

Logan Scherer

Posted by PETA

01-11-2010

The Origins of Empathy and Altruism, Carolyn Zahn-Waxler, Barbara Hollenbeck, Marian Radke-Yarrow, Springer Netherlands.

The basic principle of the living condition is that we have a general propensity to love someone. No one can live without loving someone else. This propensity is present in every living being. Even an animal like a tiger has this loving propensity and it is certainly present in the human beings. The missing point, however, is where to repose our love so that everyone can become happy.

~ Srila Prabhupada (Nectar of Devotion Preface)

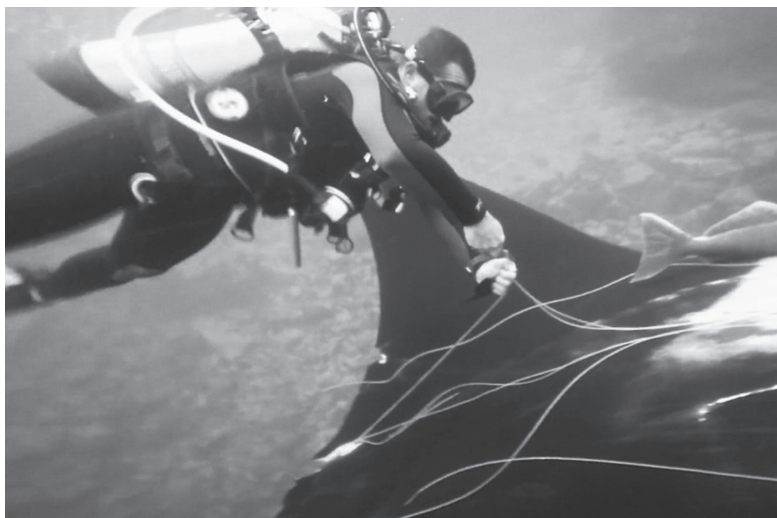
23.

She Knew I Could Help

The Magic Moment

by Jennifer Anderson

It was like many Maui mornings, the sun rising over Haleakala as we greeted our divers for the day's charter. As my captain and I explained the dive procedures, I noticed the wind line moving into Molokini, a small, crescent-shaped island that harbors a large reef. I slid through the briefing, then prompted my divers to gear



up, careful to do everything right so the divers would feel confident with me, the dive leader.

The dive went pretty close to how I had described it: The garden eels performed their underwater ballet, the parrot fish grazed on the coral, and the ever-elusive male flame wrasse flared their colors to defend their territory. Near the last level of the dive, two couples in my group signaled they were going to ascend. As luck would have it, the remaining divers were two European brothers, who were obviously troubled by the idea of a “woman” dive master and had ignored me for the entire dive.

The three of us caught the current and drifted along the outside of the reef, slowly beginning our ascent until, far below, something caught my eye. After a few moments, I made out the white shoulder patches of a manta ray in about one hundred and twenty feet of water.

Manta rays are one of my greatest loves, but very little is known about them. They feed on plankton, which makes them more delicate than an aquarium can handle. They travel the oceans and are therefore a mystery.

Mantas can be identified by the distinctive pattern on their belly, with no two rays alike. In 1992, I had been identifying the manta rays that were seen at Molokini and found that some were known, but many more were sighted only once, and then gone.

So there I was: a beautiful, very large ray beneath me. I started calling through my regulator, "Hey, come up and see me!" I had tried this before to attract the attention of whales and dolphins, who are very chatty underwater and will come sometimes just to see what the noise is about.

I kept calling to the ray, and when she shifted in the water column, I took that as a sign that she was curious. So I started waving my arms, calling her up to me.

After a minute, she lifted away from where she had been riding the current and began to make a wide circular glide until she was

closer to me. I kept watching as she slowly moved back and forth, rising higher, until she was directly beneath me.

I realized she was much bigger than what we were used to around Molokini - a good fifteen feet from wing tip to wing tip, and not a familiar-looking ray. I had not seen this animal before. There was something else odd about her. I just couldn't figure out what it was.

Once my brain clicked in and I was able to concentrate, I saw deep V-shaped marks of her flesh missing from her backside. Other marks ran up and down her body. At first I thought a boat had hit her. As she came closer, now with only ten feet separating us, I realized what was wrong.

She had fishing hooks embedded in her head by her eye, with very thick fishing line running to her tail. She had rolled with the line and was wrapped head to tail about five or six times. The line had torn into her body at the back, and those were the V-shaped chunks that were missing.

I felt sick and, for a moment, paralyzed. I knew wild animals in pain would never tolerate a human to inflict more pain. But I had to do something.

Forgetting about my air, and where I was, I went to the manta. I moved very slowly and talked to her the whole time, like she was one of the horses I had grown up with. When I touched her, her whole body quivered, like my horse would. I put both of my hands on her, then my entire body, talking to her the whole time. I knew that she could knock me off at any time with one flick of her great wing.

When she had steadied, I took out the knife that I carry on my inflator hose and lifted one of the lines. It was tight and difficult to get my finger under, almost like a guitar string. She shook, which told me to be gentle. It was obvious that the slightest pressure was painful.

As I cut through the first line, it pulled into her wounds. With one beat of her mighty wings, she dumped me and bolted away. I figured that she was gone and was amazed when she turned and came right back to me, gliding under my body. I went to work. She

seemed to know it would hurt, and somehow, she also knew that I could help. Imagine the intelligence of that creature, to come for help and to trust!

I cut through one line and into the next until she had all she could take of me and would move away, only to return in a moment or two. I never chased her. I would never chase any animal. I never grabbed her. I allowed her to be in charge, and she always came back.

When all the lines were cut on top, on her next pass, I went under her to pull the lines through the wounds at the back of her body. The tissue had started to grow around them, and they were difficult to get loose. I held myself against her body, with my hand on her lower jaw.

She held as motionless as she could. When it was all loose, I let her go and watched her swim in a circle. She could have gone then, and it would have all fallen away. She came back, and I went back on top of her.

The fishing hooks were still in her. One was barely hanging on, which I removed easily. The other was buried by her eye at least two inches past the barb. Carefully, I began to take it out, hoping I wasn't damaging anything. She did open and close her eye while I worked on her, and finally, it was out. I held the hooks in one hand, while I gathered the fishing line in the other hand, my weight on the manta.

I could have stayed there forever! I was totally oblivious to everything but that moment. I loved this manta. I was so moved that she would allow me to do this to her. But reality came screaming down on me. With my air running out, I reluctantly came to my senses and pushed myself away.

I remember seeing at the World's Fair that a man had trained a lion. And the man was playing with that lion just like one plays with a dog. These animals can understand, "This man loves me. He gives me food; he is my friend." They also appreciate.

~ Srila Prabhupada (Journey of Self Discovery 6.5: Slaughterhouse Civilization)

At first, she stayed below me. And then, when she realized that she was free, she came to life like I never would have imagined she could.

I thought she was sick and weak, since her mouth had been tied closed, and she hadn't been able to feed for however long the lines had been on her. I thought wrong! With two beats of those powerful wings, she rocketed along the wall of Molokini and then directly out to sea! I lost view of her.

Until this moment, the whole experience had been phenomenal, but I could explain it. Now, the moment turned magical.

I turned and saw her slowly gliding toward me. With barely an effort, she approached me and stopped, her wing just touching my head. I looked into her round, dark eye, and she looked deeply into me. I felt a rush of something that so overpowered me, I have yet to find the words to describe it, except a warm and loving flow of energy from her into me.

She stayed with me for a moment. I don't know if it was a second or an hour. Then, as sweetly as she came back, she lifted her wing over my head and was gone. A manta thank-you. I hung in midwater, using the safety-stop excuse, and tried to make sense of what I had experienced.

Sadly, I have not seen her since that day, and I am still looking. For the longest time, though my wetsuit was tattered and torn, I would not change it because I thought she wouldn't recognize me. I call to every manta I see, and they almost always acknowledge me in some way. One day, though, it will be her. She'll hear me and pause, remembering the giant cleaner that she trusted to relieve her pain, and she'll come.

Source

Jennifer Anderson

From The Book Chicken Soup For The Ocean Lover's Soul.

24.

Can Animals Sense A Hunter's Intent?

"Don't look at the animal you are stalking. They can feel it".

By John Schandelmeier

I see the bull moose sneaking, and as he crawls through the brush on the hill the eagle above screams, "Stay close the ground, man walks among us -- be still."

This paraphrase of an old Marty Robbins song comes to mind at some point during every hunting season. Why does man create such fear and disturbance when he walks into the woods? Is it because we are the ultimate predator?

I don't think so. I have watched wolves skirt a caribou herd; the caribou are watchful and wary, but return to their feeding when the wolf passes. This fall I watched a lone grizzly cross a meadow where several moose grazed. They lifted their heads and followed his movement closely as he continued along his way. I saw their respect as they continued to watch for another few minutes after he had disappeared from their sight.

The wolves and the bears eat moose year-round, while man is only in the woods for a relatively short time. In most places we don't hunt



cow moose, yet they fear us. A few days ago I sat on a hill glassing for moose. I sat quietly while a cow and calf moose approached, feeding along my hillside. My dog, Maudie, sat watching their advance intently. The wind favored the moose and the cow caught our scent at a couple of hundred yards. There was no hesitation. She turned and ran -- and ran for nearly a mile without stopping. She slowed for a bit and then ran again until out of my sight. Why?

It causes me to wonder about the communication skills between animals. I carried a rifle, so obviously there was malicious intent on my part. *Could the moose feel my mind-set?*

One of the things I always tell those who hunt with me is, "Don't look at the animal you are stalking." It is OK to glance at him now and then, but don't concentrate on him. Animals can feel that. From how far away, I don't know, but yesterday morning I watched several cow moose feed fairly close to my hillside. I looked at them, determined them to be cows and ignored them.



Farther out, a big cow with last year's calf fed in a swamp. I put the scope on them and immediately thought I saw a fork horn on the calf. Sure enough, it was a little bull feeding nearly a mile out. My concentration sharpened and I was very focused on that young bull. Within a minute his head came up and he started to move out of the swamp toward the trees. He ran the last couple hundred yards to cover, while the cow continued her leisurely way.

I'm not going to necessarily have you believe that bull felt my intensity, but it is possible? A fork-horn is a perfect moose for us and I do really want him in the freezer. The big bulls know I really would rather not pack them, so they just stand around and puff up to seem larger ("he won't want to pack me over that hill...").

I went out to find that little bull this morning and he was nowhere to be found. I saw a couple of those puffed up bigger bulls, but they

knew they were farther out than I wished to pack so they paid me little mind.

My theory that the difference between humans and other predators might be intent gained a little credence in my mind as I watched a small grizzly feeding on blueberries less than a hundred yards from a cow and calf moose. They watched him for a couple of minutes and the cow lay down. The calf went back to feeding and finally prodded the cow up so he could nurse. The bear went up and over the hill and I dropped down into the valley, pondering my moose-less way home.

Source

John Schandelmeier Alaska Dispatch News, Sept. 13, 2012

25.

Like Humans, Chimpanzees Have Cops Too

Chimps Use “Policing” To Maintain Social Order

Seems like chimpanzees also understand that sound conflict management is crucial to ensure peace and order in their group.

This form of conflict management is called “policing” – the impartial intervention of a third party in a conflict.

Until now, this morally motivated behaviour in chimpanzees was only ever documented anecdotally.

However, primatologists from the University of Zurich can now confirm that chimpanzees intervene impartially in a conflict to guarantee the stability of their group.

They therefore exhibit prosocial behaviour based on an interest in community concern.



The willingness of the arbitrators to intervene impartially is greatest if several quarrelers are involved in a dispute as such conflicts particularly jeopardize group peace.

The researchers observed and compared the behaviour of four different captive chimpanzee groups.

At Walter Zoo in Gossau, they encountered special circumstances: “We were lucky enough to be able to observe a group of chimpanzees into which new females had recently been introduced and in which the ranking of the males was also being redefined. The stability of the group began to waver. This also occurs in the wild,” explained Claudia Rudolf von Rohr, the lead author of the study.

Not every chimpanzee makes a suitable arbitrator. It is primarily high-ranking males or females or animals that are highly respected in the group that intervene in a conflict.

Otherwise, the arbitrators are unable to end the conflict successfully. As with humans, there are also authorities among chimpanzees.

“The interest in community concern that is highly developed in us humans and forms the basis for our moral behaviour is deeply rooted. It can also be observed in our closest relatives,” concluded Rudolf von Rohr.

Source

Alexander Besant, March 8, 2012

ANI, March 8, 2012

Zee News, March 8, 2012

26.

Violence Is Violence

Whether Committed Against A Human Or A Non-Human Animal

By Jamie Berger

I recently attended an animal rights symposium at my university's law school which addressed a wide variety of issues from animal agriculture to hunting and wildlife rights. The final keynote speaker left a lasting impression on me and made a fascinating connection between violence towards animals and violence towards people. This link sheds light on a common critique we often receive from vegan skeptics: why focus our efforts on animal suffering when we live in a world still plagued by violent war and immense suffering of humans?

The keynote speaker at the symposium, Geoff Fleck, is an attorney who tries cases of white-collar crime and felony cases of violent crimes, including homicides. His larger passion, however, is the prosecution of animal cruelty cases; he has prosecuted over 50 of these cases in the past year alone. Despite his often grim career, Fleck has a remarkable sense of humor and a bright, contagious optimism that was truly inspiring. Although his presentation was replete with heart-wrenching images and



facts about violence against animals and people, the audience was somehow left feeling hopeful.

Fleck began his talk with the assertion that animal rights are the new form of Civil Rights; instead of fighting racism, animal rights activists target speciesism, a form of discrimination that is founded on the assumption of human superiority over non-human animals. Fleck contends that speciesism follows the same patterns as other forms of domination of the weak by the strong, and is enmeshed in a very, very long history of the mistreatment of slaves, wives and women, children, the mentally infirm and the physically disabled. Vulnerability has always led to abuse, he offered, and the weakest therefore need the most protection by the state. A quote by Gandhi was fitting: “the more helpless a creature, the more entitled it is to protection by man from the cruelty of man.”

The link between violence to animals and violence to humans is so well established, Fleck added, that it is now simply referred to as “the link”. Hundreds of pages of scholarly literature have been dedicated to this topic, and the statistics he offered us made the connection abundantly clear.

According to one study, Fleck said, seventy-five percent of violent offenders (to humans) had prior records of cruelty to animals. Another study found that 25% of aggressive inmates had committed five or more cases of animal abuse as children. Pet abuse is one of the four main indicators of domestic partner abuse (along with drug and alcohol addiction and lack of high school education). 36% of

Syamasundara: These evolutionists, they consider... They don't think there is a soul. They think that the cow is an organism, and we are just more advanced organisms. So we have the right to slaughter the cow because we are more advanced.

Prabhupada: Now, tiger is more advanced. He has the right to kill you. Why you say you are advanced? Why you are claiming that you are advanced? When a tiger is there, he kills you and eats you. He is more advanced.

serial killers were cruel to animals as children, 46% as adolescents, and 36% adults. In another study, 32% of children living in homes where domestic violence occurred abused animals. And here was the most shocking: if an animal is being abused in a household, 88% of the time a child is also being abused.

All of this tells us that violence is violence, whether it is committed against a human or a non-human animal. It shares a common root, somewhere deep in the core of human existence. Both forms of violence—towards humans or animals—can be passed down from parents to children, and one form often translates into the other. Both forms are perpetuated by a culture which has come to normalize violence.

I frequently debate with one of my professors about the ethics of eating meat. Recently he argued that his problem with the vegan position is the overt or implied evangelical superiority when we're still killing each other over war. Once we've solved that problem, he said, we can turn to the issue of eating meat.

Evangelical superiority aside, the facts above illustrate that this divide between war and our current system of meat production and consumption is not so clear cut. We should not and cannot wait to end animal cruelty until we're no longer killing each other; the two forms of violence are one in the same. They are fundamentally linked.

The good news is that, because this link exists, progress on one front means progress on the other. Leo Tolstoy said "as long as there are slaughterhouses there will be battlefields." Whether we succeed in lessening cruelty to animals (eliminating the slaughterhouse) or violence against humans (erasing battlefields), we begin to break down that entrenched system of domination of the weak by the strong that has inflicted so much pain on billions of beings for thousands of years.

Source

Jamie Berger On April 4, 2012

27.

No Act Of Kindness Is Too Small

Good Guy Pilot Stops Takeoff For A Tiny Snake Lost On Runway

A JFK-bound flight was delayed at the San Francisco airport Friday by a pilot who refused to squish a six-inch garter snake on the runway, officials said.

The Delta Air Lines pilot had announced a delay in takeoff to waiting passengers, explaining that a worker had been dispatched to



snatch a wayward reptile off the runway, according to fliers tweeting from the plane.

A spokesman for San Francisco International Airport later said the snake was caught and set free in a “grassy area.”

An airfield safety officer quickly caught the snake as passengers stood by, sources said.

The flight was delayed only a few minutes and arrived on time at JFK at 3:10 p.m., a Delta spokeswoman said.

“This situation is a first,” she said.

Travelers agreed it was bizarre and took to Twitter to broadcast the holdup.

The flight's passengers shared news of their delay on Twitter - including efforts to 'bag' the snake.

'Flight delayed briefly at SFO due to a SNAKE ON THE RUNWAY!' passenger Charlie KNights wrote. 'Airport security is attempting to bag the snake and take it to a snake sanctuary.'

'SFO > JFK: "Folks, slight delay due to a snake on the runway. Ground crew working to apprehend the snake and take it to a sanctuary" #ForReal,' passenger John Cantarella wrote.

Passenger Scott Belsky said, 'Flight SF-NYC delayed before take-off "due to a snake on the runway, which we are trying to move away with sirens." That's a first.'

As for the snake, we assume he or she is safe and sound with its snake brethren, careful to never again wander along the concrete road of death otherwise known as an airport runway.



Source

Zoe Szathmary, The Daily Mail, 16 May 2014

Aaron Foley, Jalopnik, 5/16/14

Natalie O'Neill, New York Post, May 16, 2014

Winston Pampah, Ghana Visions, 17/05/2014

A person who is actually God conscious is kind to everyone. Therefore one tenet of our philosophy is "No meat-eating." Just consider: if a poor man is lying helpless in the street, can I kill him? Will the state excuse me? I may say, "I have only killed a poor man. There was no need for him in society. Why should such a person live?" But will the state excuse me? Will the authorities say, "You have done very nice work"? No. The poor man is also a citizen of the state, and the state cannot allow him to be killed. Now, why not expand this philosophy? The trees, the birds, and the beasts are also sons of God. If one kills them, one is as guilty as one who kills a poor man on the street. In God's eyes, or even in the vision of a learned man, there is no discrimination between poor and rich, black and white. No. Every living entity is part and parcel of God.

~ Srila Prabhupada (Teachings of Queen Kunti 9)

28.

An Underwater 'Car Wash'

Where Sea Turtles Stop By To Get A Clean And Scrub From Electric Yellow Fish

These brightly coloured fish have been photographed happily operating an underwater car wash to help clean passing sea turtles.

Photographer Masa Ushioda, 43, described the fish as working 'like a car wash' and said the electric yellow, purple and blue fish worked enthusiastically on each turtle that checked in for a scrub.

The busy crew operated 60ft underwater in the Pacific Ocean off the Kona coast of Hawaii, America, in an area known as Turtle



Pinnacle. Mr Ushioda, who has two children and lives in Kona, said: 'A turtle cleaning station is like a car wash business - the turtles come in, get cleaned and go out.

'As soon as a new dirty turtle came into the cleaning station, all the fish abandoned the one they were on, and go for the newcomer.

'Obviously the dirtier, the better. On a typical day, during a 60 minute dive, more than dozen a turtles come in and out.

'After the fish leave, many turtles find a ledge or overhang nearby and fall asleep for another 20 minutes or so.

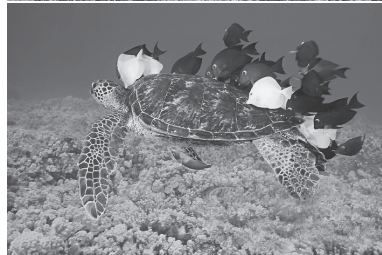
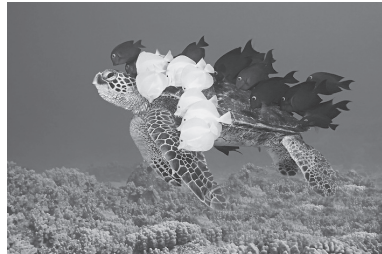
'But some leave the station as soon as the cleaning gets done.

'For me, the key for the ultimate turtle cleaning picture was to get these yellow tang, *Zebrasoma flavescens*, in the frame.

'These yellow fish are the most beautiful but they are the most shy fish in the ocean.

'I had to approach very quietly without blowing bubbles and was lucky with these fish on this particular day, who were bold - that doesn't happen often.'

The 3ft long Green Sea Turtle is an endangered species but it is abundant in Hawaii.



Source

Corey Charlton, The Daily Mail, 4 August 2014

Mike Roberts, The Telegraph, 13 Mar 2010

Wonderpedia Magazine, August 8, 2011

29.

A Vegetarian Crocodile

Who Is The Guardian of A Lake Temple

Since Hundreds of Years, Has Never Harmed Anyone Including The Fish In The Pond

Ananthapura Lake Temple in Kasaragod, built in the 9th century, is the only lake temple in Kerala and is the moolasthanam (original abode) of Ananthapadmanabha, the deity of Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram. The garbhagriha of the temple is reachable only by a bridge. What is most amazing about the temple, is that a vegetarian crocodile has been guarding the temple for hundreds of years.



Babia The Crocodile Guardian

From very ancient times, one crocodile has been seen there. Though devotees take bath in the tank there is no instance of it harming anyone. Babia is the name by which this guardian is known by the devotees. It is the local guardian and the messenger of the temple. The only food that Babia takes is the offerings of the devotees. Usually it is a special gruel made of rice and molasses. After the Ucha Pooja / Noon Pooja , the food offered by devotees (prasadam) is given to Babia at around 12PM. Temple authorities claim that Babia is a vegetarian and has never harmed anyone including the fishes in the pond.

If a worshiper calls crocodile with its name, the crocodile silently comes from its nearby cave and has food. Sometimes he comes out during evening time also.

'Mosale Naivedya' (Rice to Crocodile) is a prominent offering here in this temple.

There is an interesting local legend that narrates the entire story behind the guardian crocodile. Once Sree Vilvamangalathu Swami, devotee of Lord Vishnu, was doing penance for his favourite Lord. While he was in his prayers, Lord Krishna in the form of a little boy appeared and started disturbing him. Being



annoyed by the behaviour of this child, the saint pushed Lord Krishna aside with his left hand. The boy immediately disappeared into a nearby cave and the truth dawned on the saint as to who the boy was. The crevice into which Krishna is said to have disappeared is still there. The crocodile guards the entrance and the shrine.

In 1945, when the British soldiers were stationed there, one soldier shot dead the crocodile. To the surprise of everyone the

soldier died within few days by a snake-bite. People believe it to be a curse by the serpent God Anantha. Soon another crocodile appeared in the tank. The legend goes that there is only one crocodile in the lake at a time. When one crocodile dies, another one appears in the lake. The devotees pay great respect to this crocodile.



The cave where the devotee crocodile resides.

Temple Design

The temple is unique in its structural aspects for it is erected in the middle of an impressive lake of 302 feet. The lake is gifted with a perennial supply of pure spring water. We can find the ruins of temples all round the lake which stand testimony to the fact that it was part of a great temple complex. The sreekovil (sanctum sanctorum), namaskara-mandapam, thitappalli, and shrines of Jala-Durga and the entrance of the cave are located in the lake. The namaskara mandapam is connected to the eastern rock by a foot-bridge which is the only passage to the sreekovil.

The principal deity is Lord Vishnu. One of the key features of the temple is that the original Deities in the sanctum sanctorum



were not made of metal or stone, but of a rare combination of more than 70 medicinal materials called 'kadu-sharkara-yogam.' These Deities were replaced by panchaloha metals in 1972. Efforts are going on now to reinstall the idols made with 'kadu-sharkara-yogam.' The Lord Vishnu idol is in a sitting pose over a five-hooded serpent king Lord Anantha. The lake temple is open to all visitors

regardless of caste or creed. The District Tourism Promotion Council has plans to preserve the temple and its surroundings for its uniqueness.

The temple has an excellent collection of wood carvings on the ceilings of the mandapam. These carvings depict the incidents taken from the stories of dasavatharam (the ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu). Some of them are painted. The Nava-grahas (nine planets) are painted at the muktha-mandapam. On either side of the sreekovil dwaara-palakas (jaya and vijaya) are beautifully carved in wood.

The nearest major railway station to Ananthapura Lake Temple is Kasaragod which is about 12 km from here. Kozhikode is the nearest airport which is about 200 km from here.

Reference

wikipedia.org/wiki/Ananthapura_Lake_Temple

BBC, David Molak, June 24, 1977

Juhan Samuel, Jun 16 2014

Ananthapura Lake Temple, Keralatraveltourism.com.

Ananthapura Lake Temple Kasargod Kerala". Kamalkapoor.com.

When there was too much animal killing, the incarnation of Lord Buddha was there to stop animal killing. In Buddhism there is no animal killing. Although they are now killing animals, but originally Buddha religion means non-violence. Also Lord Christ also said, "Thou shalt not kill." And Krsna says, ahimsa. So in no religion unnecessary killing of animals is allowed. Even in Mohammedans, they are also... Kurvani. Kurvani means they can kill animals in the Mosque. So everywhere animal killing is restricted.

- Srila Prabhupada (Room Conversation with Professor Durckheim, June 19, 1974, Germany)

30.

Parrot's Oratory Stuns Scientists

The finding of a parrot with an almost unparalleled power to communicate with people has brought scientists up short.

The bird, a captive African grey called N'kisi, has a vocabulary of 950 words, and shows signs of a sense of humour.

He invents his own words and phrases if he is confronted with novel ideas with which his existing repertoire cannot cope - just as a human child would do.



N'kisi's remarkable abilities feature in the latest BBC Wildlife Magazine. N'kisi is believed to be one of the most advanced users of human language in the animal world.

About 100 words are needed for half of all reading in English, so if N'kisi could read he would be able to cope with a wide range of material.

He uses words in context, with past, present and future tenses, and is often inventive.

One N'kisi-ism was "flied" for "flew", and another "pretty smell medicine" to describe the aromatherapy oils used by his owner, an artist based in New York.



When he first met Dr Jane Goodall, the renowned chimpanzee expert, after seeing her in a picture with apes, N'kisi said: "Got a chimp?"

He appears to fancy himself as a humourist. When another parrot hung upside down from its perch, he commented: "You got to put this bird on the camera."

Dr Goodall says N'kisi's verbal fireworks are an "outstanding example of interspecies communication".

There are many sections in the Ramayana and other Vedic literature where there is conversation between humans, birds and animals. In fact modern scholars deride such literature for this so-call "naive" feature. One of our leading intellectuals once interviewed a mundane scholar on the topic of the Ramayana. This scholar derisively described the Kishkinda khanda as a Walt Disney production with talking monkeys, bears, etc.

Our "learned scholar" instead of defending the scripture laughed along with him and published his folly in his book.

Yes, animals are capable of performing many feats, some of which we are not even aware of and are gradually discovering. ~ Shyamasundara Dasa

In an experiment, the bird and his owner were put in separate rooms and filmed as the artist opened random envelopes containing picture cards.

Analysis showed the parrot had used appropriate keywords three times more often than would be likely by chance.

This was despite the researchers discounting responses like "What ya doing on the phone?" when N'kisi saw a card of a man with a telephone, and "Can I give you a hug?" with one of a couple embracing.

Professor Donald Broom, of the University of Cambridge's School of Veterinary Medicine, said: "The more we look at the cognitive abilities of animals, the more advanced they appear, and the biggest leap of all has been with parrots."

And of course in recent times Lord Caitanya spoke to the birds. Even St. Francis of Assisi spoke the birds:

"Many of the stories that surround the life of St Francis deal with his love for animals. Perhaps the most famous incident that illustrates the Saint's humility towards nature is recounted in the 'Fioretti' (The "Little Flowers"), a collection of legends and folk-lore that sprang up after the Saint's death. It is said that one day while Francis was traveling with some companions they happened upon a place in the road where birds filled the trees on either side. Francis told his companions to "wait for me while I go to preach to my sisters the birds". The birds surrounded him, drawn by the power of his voice, and not one of them flew away. Francis spoke to them:

"My sister birds, you owe much to God, and you must always and in everyplace give praise to Him; for He has given you freedom to wing through the sky and He has clothed you, you neither sow nor reap, and God feeds you and gives you rivers and fountains for your thirst, and mountains and valleys for shelter, and tall trees for your nests. And although you neither know how to spin or weave, God dresses you and your children, for the Creator loves you greatly and He blesses you abundantly. Therefore always seek to praise God."

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_of_Assisi

Alison Hales, of the World Parrot Trust, told BBC News Online: "N'kisi's amazing vocabulary and sense of humour should make everyone who has a pet parrot consider whether they are meeting its needs.

"They may not be able to ask directly, but parrots are long-lived, and a bit of research now could mean an improved quality of life for years."

Source

By Alex Kirby

BBC News Online environment correspondent

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/1/hi/sci/tech/3430481.stm>

Published: 2004/01/26 © BBC MMVII

31.

Heart Melting Story of Mr. G And Jellybean

Depressed Goat Won't Eat Until He's Reunited With His Donkey Best Friend

For 10 years, a goat named Mr. G and a donkey named Jellybean lived together in neglect "on the property of a woman who could barely care for herself, let alone the dozens of dogs she hoarded and three barnyard animals."

After the creatures were rescued, the Grass Valley, Calif., organization took in the goat, Mr. G, but sent Jellybean, the donkey off to another sanctuary.

That didn't sit well with the goat.



"Mr. G refused to eat," the rescue center stated. "He spent his days lying in a corner of his stall, barely lifting his head. Staff tried every treat — molasses, sweet grain, apples, wetting down food... nothing worked."

Staff physically moved Mr. G to ensure he didn't spend too long lying down.

After health exams revealed nothing physically, it became evident Mr. G was in mourning, assuming his friend Jellybean had disappeared forever. He was inconsolable. After four days of starving himself, drastic actions were taken to help Mr. G.

Nothing, that is, until a volunteer offered to make the 14-hour roundtrip journey to bring the burro to Animal Place and reunite Mr. G with his best friend.

It was time for Jellybean to come home.

It was a scene of an emotional reunion. Those who watch this video on youtube are advised to keep a couple of tissues handy.

When Jellybean entered Mr. G's stall, he could not believe his eyes. In fact, he did a double-take! It was only when he smelled Jellybean's unique scent that Mr. G realized the truth — his dearest friend had returned!

Mr. G erupted from his prone position, snorting and inhaling Jellybean's presence. He rushed after her into their outdoor pasture. The magical moment came when Mr. G began eating from Jellybean's bowl!

Never doubt the depth of emotions other animals possess. Mr. G's grief was as deep and mysterious as a human's. His joy at reuniting with Jellybean was as beautiful and inspiring as a human's.



The rescue center says the two will remain together from now on. Their story will live on, inspiring and teaching visitors about nonhuman emotions.

Source

The Huffington Post, By Ed Mazza, 05/26/2014

Mr. G and Jellybean, Animal Place

May. 30, 2014 at 12:36 AM Samantha Okazaki

TODAY

32.

Rodents Are Capable Of Regret

They Looked Back At The Missed Opportunity In Life

It has become a byword for bad behaviour. But it seems the rat may not be as heartless as we think.

Research shows that the rodents are capable of regret.

U.S. scientists trained rats to play a game called Restaurant Row, in which four food dispensers were laid out in a circle.

The 'restaurants' dispensed foods of different flavours and when a rat came near, a tone was played that signalled how long they would have to wait to be fed.

The animals learnt which of the four sections had their favourite flavour and also knew that if they hung around too long by one dispenser, they would miss out on the food on offer elsewhere.

During the study, some of the rats did not wait for a tasty treat, then discovered they would have to wait even longer for something less appealing at the next dispenser.

In this case, they turned and looked back at the missed opportunity, researchers found.

The rodents were also more likely to wait longer at this second dispenser and then wolf down the food when it was dispensed.



These, the University of Minnesota researchers say, are all features of regret.

Scientists also found a brain region called the orbitofrontal cortex, that is active when humans feel regret, lit up when the rats looked back at what might have been.

Regret was defined as the rats realising they had made a mistake – and that if they had chosen differently, they would have been better off.

This differs from disappointment, in which while things are worse than we would like them to be, it is not our fault.

The study, detailed in the journal *Nature Neuroscience*, is the first to show that an animal is capable of regret, an emotion once thought to be uniquely human.

Source

Fiona Macrae, Science Correspondent, *The Daily Mail*, 8 June 2014

Thompson, R., Crinella, F. and Yu, J., *Brain Mechanisms in Problem Solving and Intelligence. A Lesion Survey of the Rat Brain*, Plenum, New York, 1990.

“Rats Capable Of Reflecting On Mental Processes”. *Sciencedaily.com*. 2007-03-09. Video (2015-05-29). “Scientists test rats’ empathy”. *Business Insider*.

THE 'RESTAURANT ROW' TEST

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33.

Story of A Brave And Kind Hearted Mouse

Who Tried To Rescue His Friend From The Jaws Of A Giant Snake

When People Are Attacked In Public Places, Fellow Human Beings Are Not Intervening

When two small white mice are dropped into a snake enclosure at a Chinese zoo, it's sad - but predictable - what will eventually happen.

But what spectators weren't expecting was a surprise counter attack from one of the furry underdogs.



This brave little mouse did everything in its power to try to save its companion after it was attacked by a hungry green snake.

It jumped onto the reptile's head as it prepared to devour the little creature, hopping on and off.

It sniffed and scurried around its rigid friend and continued to jump onto the snake's head.

But sadly his valiant efforts were in vain, as before long the snake, which had just woken from a long hibernation and subsequent fast, had swallowed the little creature whole.

Sadly, for the second mouse, fate was not on its side either. After failing to save its companion, it ran to hide on the far side of the enclosure.

But it did not take long before a second hungry snake awoke and devoured the brave little thing.

The remarkable, but tragic, feeding encounter was witnessed at Hangzhou Zoo, in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province.

The snakes had just woken from a long hibernation and the little mice were their first meals.



Bystander Effect - No One Intervenes If A Person Is Being Publicly Attacked, Lacking Conscience And Emotions Which Even A Rat Displays

On March 13, 1964, a 28-year-old woman named Catherine “Kitty” Genovese was raped and killed in two separate late-night attacks near her home in Kew Gardens, Queens. Police found that at least 38 people had seen the attacks or heard Genovese scream, but no one intervened and just one woman called the police.

The story was barely reported until two weeks later, when Martin Gansberg covered it in vivid detail in *The New York Times*: “For more than half an hour 38 respectable, law-abiding citizens in Queens watched a killer stalk and stab a woman in three separate attacks in Kew Gardens,” Gansberg wrote. “Twice their chatter and the sudden glow of their bedroom lights interrupted him and frightened him off. Each time he returned, sought her out, and stabbed her again. Not one person telephoned the police during the assault; one witness called after the woman was dead.”

Thousands of cases like this are reported every year around the world which reveal the callous and unconcerned state of modern man’s mind.

Formerly if somebody is attacked by another man, many persons will come to help him: “Why this man is attacked?” But at the present moment if one man is attacked, the passersby will not care for it because they have lost their sympathy or mercifulness for others. Our neighbor may starve, but we don’t care for it. But formerly the sympathy for other living entities, even for an ant... Just like Maharaja Pariksit, while he was touring on his kingdom, he saw that one man was trying to kill a cow. Pariksit Maharaja saw. Immediately he took his sword that “Who are you? You are killing a cow in my kingdom?” Because the king is supposed, or the government is supposed to give everyone protection, not that the government is meant for giving protection to the human being and not to the animals. Because it is Kali-yuga, the government discriminates between two nationals. National means one who has taken birth in the land. That is called national. That is... You know, everyone. So the trees, they are also born in the land, the aquatics also born in the land. The flies, the reptiles, the snakes, the birds, the beasts, human beings -- everyone is born in that land. Suppose your land, America, United States... Why the government should give protection to one class of living entities, rejecting others? This means they have lost their sympathy for others. ~ Srila Prabhupada (Lecture, New Vrindaban, September 2, 1972)

Source

Helen Collis

19 August 2013, The Daily Mail

Huffington Post UK, Sara C Nelson, 19/08/2013

Sarah Miller, 11 Mar 2013, grist.com

Patrick O'Rourke, O'Canada, August 3, 2013

Lauren Davis, IO9, 3/09/13

34.

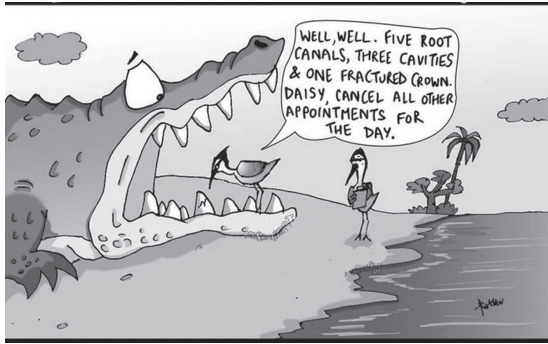
What CEO's Can Learn From Crocodiles And Plovers

Have you ever heard the tale of the African crocodile and the Egyptian plover?

The story of these two species and their symbiotic relationship has been around for thousands of years. Here, both the crocodile and plover benefit from the actions of the other. Its completely mutual.



According to this story, the crocodiles lie on the shores of the Nile River with their mouths open while plover fly into the open mouths and, like a giant piece



of dental floss, eat the leftover meat stuck between the crocodile's teeth. The plover get full and the crocodiles keep their bright smiles.

The validity of this relationship is constantly in question — in fact many believe it is a myth — but it teaches an important concept of nature where two seemingly different parts can work together for the overall good.

Source

Austin Ries, September 30, 2013, In Zoho Recruit

The History of Herodotus - Book II

“WP00955 Nile Crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*) with Egyptian Plover or Crocodile Bird (*Pluvianus aegyptius*)”. Warren Photographic.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egyptian_plover

35.

What Do Animals Dream About?

Is Dreaming A Uniquely Human Trait? The Evidence Suggests Not

Almost all other animals are clearly observed to partake in sleep, whether they are aquatic, aerial, or terrestrial," wrote Aristotle in his work *On Sleep and Sleeplessness*. But do other animals dream? On that the Greek philosopher also had an opinion. In *The History of Animals*, he wrote: "It would appear that not only do men dream, but horses also, and dogs, and oxen; aye, and sheep, and goats, and all viviparous quadrupeds; and dogs show their dreaming by barking in their sleep." His research methods may lack sophistication, but Aristotle may not have been too far off the mark.

We certainly can't ask animals if they dream, but we can at least observe the evidence that they might. There are two ways in which scientists have gone about this seemingly impossible task. One is to look at their physical behaviour during the various phases of the sleep cycle. The second is to see whether their sleeping brains work similarly to our own sleeping brains.

The story of how we worked out how to peer into the minds of sleeping animals begins in the 1960s. Back then, scattered reports began to appear in medical journals describing people acting out movements in their dreams. This was curious, because during so-called REM sleep (rapid eye movement), our muscles are usually paralysed.

Researchers realised that inducing a similar state in animals could allow them to probe how they dream. In 1965, French scientists Michel Jouvet and J F Delorme found that removing a part of the brainstem, called the pons, from a cat's brain prevented it becoming paralysed when in REM. The researchers called the condition "REM without atonia" or REM-A. Instead of lying still, the cats walked around and behaved aggressively.



This hinted they were dreaming of activities from their waking hours. And studies since have revealed similar behaviour. According to veterinary neurologist Adrian Morrison, who has written a review of this research, cats in REM-A will move their heads as if following stimuli. Some cats also show behaviour identical to predatory attacks, as if they were chasing mice in their dreams. Similar dream activity has been seen in dogs.

Some humans have been found to 'act out' their dreams too – if they suffer from a condition called REM Sleep Behaviour Disorder. "Punching, kicking, leaping, and running from the bed during attempted dream enactment are frequent manifestations and usually correlate with the reported imagery," according to the International Classification of Sleep Disorders (ICSD). Injuries are common among these people and those sleeping with them, the ICSD adds.

Rats Navigating A Maze In Their Dreams

Physical movement is not the only way of peering into dreams, though. Researchers can now humanely peer into the electrical and chemical activities of brain cells in animals while they sleep. In 2007, MIT scientists Kenway Louise and Matthew Wilson recorded the activity of neurons in a part of the rat brain called the hippocampus, a structure known to be involved in the formation and encoding of memories. They first recorded the activity of those brain cells while the rats ran in their mazes. Then they looked at the activity of the very same neurons while they slept. Louise and Wilson discovered identical patterns of firing during running and during REM. In other words, it was as if the rats were running the maze in their minds while they were snoozing. The results were so clear that the researchers could infer the rats' precise location within their mental dream mazes and map them to actual spots within the actual maze.

Practising Their Songs In Their Dreams

University of Chicago biologists Amish Dave and Daniel Margoliash looked into the brains of zebra finches and discovered something similar. These birds are not born with the melodies of their songs hardwired into the brains; instead, they have to learn to sing their songs. When they're awake, the neurons in part of the finches' forebrain called the *robustus archistriatalis* fire following their singing of particular notes. Researchers can determine which note was sung based on the firing patterns of those neurons. By piecing together the electrical patterns in those neurons over time, Dave and Margoliash can reconstruct the entire song from start to finish.

Later, when the birds were asleep, Dave and Margoliash looked again at the electrical activity in that part of their brains. The firing of those neurons wasn't entirely random. Instead, the neurons fired in order, as if the bird was audibly singing the song, note for note. It might be said that the zebra finches were practising their songs while they slumbered.

We humans do not usually realise we're dreaming while we're dreaming, but it becomes clear as soon as we wake up. Do zebra finches remember their dreams as dreams when they're shaken out of their sleep? Can they distinguish the real world from the one in their dreams? We can say with a reasonable amount of certainty that the physiological and behavioural features of dreaming in humans have now been observed in cats, rats, birds, and other animals. Yet what it's actually like to experience a dream if you're not human remains a mystery.

Source

Jason G Goldman, BBC, 25 April 2014

Liz Langley, National Geographic, September 05, 2015

Marc Bekoff, Psychology Today, Dec 04, 2012

MIT News, journal Neuron, January 24, 2001

Kaitlin Miller, Popular Science, February 1, 2012

36.

A Waiting Dog

A dog sits waiting in the cold autumn sun,
Too faithful to leave, too frightened to run.

He's been here for days now with nothing to do,
but sit by the road waiting for you.

He can't understand why you left him that day,
He thought you and he were stopping to play.



He's sure you'll come back, and that's why he stays,
How long will he suffer? How many days?

His legs have grown weak, his throat's parched dry,
He's sick now from hunger and falls, with a sigh.

He lays down his head and closes his eyes,
I wish you could see how a waiting dog dies.

~ Kathy Flood ~

Source

Saved: Rescued Animals and the Lives They Transform

Karin Winegar, Da Capo Press.

37.

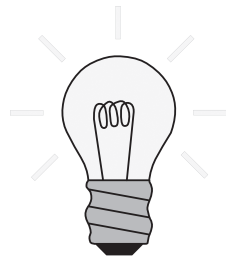
When We Suddenly See The Same Things Differently

By Robert Grillo

Social psychologist Melanie Joy describes her shift in consciousness about animals as suddenly “seeing the same things differently.” She describes living in a state of “knowing without knowing” for the majority of her life and then suddenly waking up to the shocking reality of how animals suffer primarily for our enjoyment in eating certain foods.

For some of us, such a shift in consciousness, when finally faced with the true consequences of our food choices, prompts us to act on what we know in an effort to align our beliefs with our actions. For others, the path is more complex. It takes many people time to first recognize all of the indoctrination that has shaped their beliefs for years and then resolve the internal conflict between their empathy for animals and the relentless social forces telling them to block that empathy.

I personally was an “on again–off again vegetarian for years with no ethical foundation for my food choices (up until four years ago). My narrow frame of reference was focused on an interest in eating a somewhat healthy diet. I see this same perspective in a lot of people



I discuss the subject with today. They see the issue as primarily one of “self-help” and healthy eating because they haven’t yet examined the belief system that shapes our eating habits and traditions.

There are many motivations for why people come to the realization that going vegetarian is the most effective way for us to make a difference and thereby eliminate 99% of our unnecessary animal use. Today I received a response from a posting of mine on a LinkedIn group, announcing the release of the new documentary TURLOCK. One group member named Joan, attributed her own shift of consciousness to watching this film, as expressed in in her following comment:



“I watched this video with growing anxiety as I saw what I already knew to be true but had never seen. Thanks to you and Animal Place, I am ready to be freed from the last bondage of consuming animal products. I’ve thrown away the eggs and cheese in my refrigerator without a moment of regret. My quest now will be to become educated about a vegan diet. I have shared the video Turlock on Facebook and email. I am so grateful. This is the push I needed, painful tho it was.”

In reality, it was most likely many exposures that Joan experienced prior to seeing TURLOCK that “primed” her for concluding that she was ready to make a major change in her life based on her new awareness. Seeing TURLCOK was the decisive act of witnessing that solidified her shift in consciousness.

As animal advocates, our goal should be to put the information out there for people who are receptive to it. It’s often a lot like planting seeds and waiting for them to grow.

Source

Robert Grillo, February 25, 2013, Free From Harm

THE AUTHOR

Dr. Sahadeva dasa (Sanjay Shah) is a monk in vaisnava tradition. His areas of work include research in Vedic and contemporary thought, Corporate and educational training, social work and counselling, travelling, writing books and of course, practicing spiritual life and spreading awareness about the same.

He is also an accomplished musician, composer, singer, instruments player and sound engineer. He has more than a dozen albums to his credit so far. (SoulMelodies.com)

His varied interests include alternative holistic living, Vedic studies, social criticism, environment, linguistics, history, art & crafts, nature studies, web technologies etc.

Many of his books have been acclaimed internationally and translated in other languages.



By The Same Author

Oil-Final Countdown To A Global Crisis And Its Solutions
End of Modern Civilization And Alternative Future
To Kill Cow Means To End Human Civilization
Cow And Humanity - Made For Each Other
Cows Are Cool - Love 'Em!
Let's Be Friends - A Curious, Calm Cow
Wondrous Glories of Vraja
We Feel Just Like You Do
Tsunami Of Diseases Headed Our Way - Know Your Food Before Time
Runs Out
Cow Killing And Beef Export - The Master Plan To Turn India Into A
Desert
Capitalism Communism And Cowism - A New Economics For The 21st
Century
Noble Cow - Munching Grass, Looking Curious And Just Hanging Around
World - Through The Eyes Of Scriptures
To Save Time Is To Lengthen Life
Life Is Nothing But Time - Time Is Life, Life Is Time
Lost Time Is Never Found Again
Spare Us Some Carcasses - An Appeal From The Vultures
An Inch of Time Can Not Be Bought With A Mile of Gold
Cow Dung For Food Security And Survival of Human Race
Cow Dung - A Down To Earth Solution To Global Warming And
Climate Change
Career Women - The Violence of Modern Jobs And The Lost Art of Home
Making
Working Moms And Rise of A Lost Generation
Glories of Thy Wondrous Name
India A World Leader in Cow Killing And Beef Export - An Italian Did
It In 10 Years
As Long As There Are Slaughterhouses, There Will Be Wars
Peak Soil - Industrial Civilization, On The Verge of Eating Itself
Corporatocracy : The New Gods - Greedy, Ruthless And Reckless
(More information on availability on DrDasa.com)

Some one asked a question on Catholic.com, “Do animals have souls like human beings?”

Their answer is as follows. “The soul is the principle of life. Since animals and plants are living things, they have souls, but not in the sense in which human beings have souls. Our souls are rational--theirs aren't--and ours are rational because they're spiritual, not material. Animals and plants also lack a moral sense. Animal and vegetable souls are dependent entirely on matter for their operation and being. They cease to exist at death. We know human souls are spiritual since humans can know and love.”

Srila Prabhupada, the founder of the Hare Krishna movement clarifies this flawed contention:

Animals are also rational. If a dog enters my room, and I say, “Out!” the dog immediately understands and goes away. How can we say that there is no rationality at work? If I place my finger before an ant, that ant will turn away immediately. If you give a cow meat, the cow will not touch it. The cow understands that its food consists of grasses and grains. Animals have rationality, but one aspect of rationality is lacking: an animal cannot think of God. This is the main difference between animals and men. A man's rationality is so developed that he can think of God, whereas an animal cannot. But we should not think that the souls of animals are not immortal. This theory has given the Christians a basis for killing animals, but they cannot prove that an animal's soul is irrational or mortal. A man eats, sleeps, defends, and mates, and an animal does the same. So what is the difference?”

Thus we see that religion plays an important role in shaping our attitude towards the natural world. In general, Christianity, and Western civilization as a whole, according to Professor Lynn White, Jr., held a view of nature that separated humans from the rest of the natural world, and encouraged exploitation of it for our own ends.

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