

Protection of Animals (1)

Panuel

I do not particularly like the term "animal protection" since it makes it sound as if protection was a special favor bestowed to animals by man. Human beings selfishly believe that they are the lord of all creation, but I wonder where they ever got this idea. Though man may boast a highly developed brain and civilization, it cannot be said that this leads to the happiness of each individual in a real sense. Mankind has attachments and greed, and there are more harmful side effects to civilization than can be counted.

It is true that animals do not have much intelligence, and that they have a primitive life history from the human perspective. Nevertheless, animals are comparatively free of attachments of the mind. And being free means being happy. How much value does a human life which cannot escape from their bondage have compared with animals, which though short lived exist happily in nature. Is it really possible to call man the lord of all creation when viewed from the perspective of God or the laws of nature? Human beings have increased their population beyond their own control to infringe on the environment and natural resources of other life forms. Man claims land to be his property and lays to waste as much territory as he can survey or lay his hands on. Perhaps it is not possible for human beings to see just where they stand in nature given the narrow viewpoint of regarding the news of extinction of a species of plant or animal life as a problem exclusively for scientists or biologists, just so long as food, clothing and shelter for humans can be secured.

Some people mistakenly believe that man with his intelligence will one day be able to remove all causes of suffering, or that man has an unlimited future. It seems to be a peculiar feature of man

to believe that God will intervene on his behalf when something goes wrong, or that man is the only animal with a feeling heart. Yet on the other hand, they proudly assert that weaker individuals can be tortured or killed because power guarantees victory and might makes right. This is no more than law of the jungle as seen in the animal kingdom. In terms of human development, this is the psychological condition of a child from two or three to no more than ten years of age.

The excuse of treating animals cruelly and torturing them seems to be that they cannot speak for themselves, and that they are four legged and less evolved and inferior to man. The time human beings become most abhorable to Heaven is when, aside from just the stronger species dominating the weaker ones as in the law of the jungle, people continue to destroy animal species even without due cause or reason to do so. They simply find pleasure in killing, whether it be animal or humans that are being destroyed. Who gave them this right? It certainly was not any of us in Heaven. Taking pleasure in killing and torture is nothing but the work of Satan.

When a species of plant or animal is destroyed, it inevitably affects the food and clothing of man, as well as the environment in which they live, which means that it influences their essential needs of food, clothing and shelter. Even if I do not explain this, if you think about it a little, it is clear in what ways these basic needs could be affected.

The barbaric habits of man of taking animals of which the majority are peaceful and amiable, and using guns and traps to force them into submission or kill them, is even leading to a habitual lack of extending goodwill and care to weak individuals. There is not a more cowardly attitude than for a strong individual to assert his right over those who are incapable of defending themselves, or on those who are unable to retaliate in any way.

In the eyes of God, animals and plants have much greater value to be preserved than does man. This is because animals and plants fulfill their role in the order of the universe just by being alive. Human beings are no more than parasites on other life forms. Today this parasite has grown too large, and the normal biological rhythm of the earth is being disrupted.

Reflect for a moment on how the human race has been able to survive until now. Is it because of their civilization alone? This is not very likely. They received the blessings of other animals and plants, as well as non-living matter. This fact must be recollected, and brought back to mind constantly.

Even in Thailand which is supposedly a Buddhist country, where every citizen must undergo a period of monastic service, the government loaded refugees into more than a hundred trucks and forcefully deported them, when they might have had other ways of handling the problem. As soon as the refugees were returned to their native country, they were all slaughtered then and there. When we hear of incidents such as this, we become painfully aware that animals would never commit such cruel and inhumane acts. It may be said that the refugees who were slain just took the place of animals to receive the usual fate dealt to animals by human beings.

I must repeat this point over and over, but in the eyes of God human beings are in no way special. They are merely one of the animals existing on the earth.

There are foolish women who, when seeing nothing more than a kitten, scream as if they were being murdered, and they are ready to throw a rock (unfortunately many women like this have children, and the attitude these children will grow up is plain as day). I want to tell these people that animals too have a heart, and even a language. This is something impossible to understand for those who have never felt love for an animal,

or have never assumed the role of a parent to take care of an animal, and those who are poisoned by religions which regard animals to be beasts and on a lower level than humans.

Animals know this and are very cautious about people. The more wild an animal is, the more effort it takes to tame it. But if you really gain the trust of an animal, you will realize that there are very few human beings even capable of the sensitive and delicate expressions in response to human kindness and love. Animals express their feelings by using their tail, eyes, ears and whole body, aside from their voice. They are able to express so many things without a vocabulary as such. The word "lovable" seems to be an adjective made especially to describe an animal making efforts to make itself understood to humans. The phrase "pure joy" almost seems like an exclusive expression for animals. You must reflect on the fact that humans are the one and only unfeeling animal that are able to rob their own children of their inborn sincerity.

What can be done for this species which is unable to rise above themselves to appreciate the nature, characteristic and natural history of other animals and plants. They lack the time and an open mind to experience happiness because of their personal greed and interpersonal conflicts. How can they live to be valuable as true human beings and make themselves and others aware that they are the "lord of all creation"? Heaven has always provided the answer to this question.

The dinosaurs reigned on earth for one hundred million years. How long will the human race be able to survive on earth? The history of mankind is no more than two million years old.

I would like to add here that, in the Celestial Realm, those animals living a miserable existence on earth now reside in the World of Bodhisattvas, and live peacefully without the least fear of ever being threatened by anyone again. This is done to show

human beings how animals also have the right to survive and live in peace. It goes without saying that each and every human has the right to survive and the right to live in peace.

In communism the laws of nature are broken and trampled over in every respect. They have the force of the great military power of the Soviet Union behind them which threatens to cause the Third World War. Communism is spreading around the world like a "poisonous red tide." The communists say that their great cause is to "totally eliminate all exploitation." If this were the case, the human race must be totally eliminated according to the laws of the universe. Have they forgotten that human beings can only live by exploiting other animals and plants? Were they never taught this simple fact? Even though the communists may think they can eliminate all exploitation between people, they do not know that they can become the object of exploitation by the very government or nation they create. On the other hand, if those rules of the new communist order were ignored, the whole country would inevitably collapse and they would become a mob of rioters on an earth that is not regulated by any laws.

We now find the clergymen who have forgotten brotherly love, and the people in socialist countries and communists who take pleasure in indiscriminately killing those who speak up about humanitarianism, and those who advocate the path of righteousness. There are even those who think that destruction is justice, and that their cruel and inhuman methods are clearly justified. I cannot help but feel that we have once more returned back to the age of dinosaurs where individuals constantly fought among one another.