

E T H I C S   I N   A N I M A L S ?

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In 1938-1939 I was Hitler's prisoner in the extermination camps of Dachau and Buchenwald. Buchenwald concentration camp was commanded by Obersturmbannfuehrer Koch. His wife Ilse loved lampshades from human skin. Koch loved creatures in cages. He had a whole zoo erected next to the camp for the enjoyment of the Nazis. Often I stared in sorrow from the big cage holding 20,000 human animals into the small cages holding other innocent fellow-prisoners.

I thought about the words "Bestiality" and Brutality" and realized that they are derived from the animal "Beast" and Brute". But can animals ever be so beastly and brutal as human beings? I found that trillions of the tiniest and the largest animals adhere strictly to the ethical law "Thou shalt not kill", even when they are starving. But for the zoologists they are only herbivora, plant eaters.

My good wife Claire fought heroically for my freedom. I was released in 1939. We fled to China, and after the war came to the happy shores of Australia. Here I began to study the problem in earnest. I read all the books on biology and zoology I could find, and I learned that cannibalism in meat eating animals is extremely rare, and it occurs only when the animal is "out of its mind", by sudden loss of freedom, confinement in too small cages, and other panic situations. I remembered my deportation in overcrowded cattle cars to the extermination camps when some prisoners went out of their mind and began to attack their fellow-prisoners.

And then I found the writings of Professor Ashley Montagu, the noted anthropologist who said something unbelievable:

"Among the same species of animals the highest ethics is supreme law"

Lions don't kill lions, tigers don't kill tigers, wolves will roam the wintry forest howling mad of unbearable hunger, but no wolf will kill a fellow-brother-wolf. Of course in the mating season there are mighty scraps for female favours. But the fighters have no intention to kill and eat each other.

Still, meat eating animals kill lesser prey. Is this an "iron law of nature?" It isn't. We all know about the wonderful story of Elsa the lioness, and we have seen the wonderful film made from the true story "Born Free." But what you may not know is that the film company could take no chances by training only one tame lioness to play Elsa. They had to have stand-ins, should anything happen to Elsa. In fact, they had 11 Elsa's ready, 11 fully grown lionesses. What does this mean?

It means that any killer animal baby when taken away from its killer parents before it receives from them an education in murder, will not kill. It will remain the best of pals with other animals and will eat with them out of the same trough.

The terrible conclusion from all these facts is that man is the only animal that kills his own brothers in wars and massacres. But the zoologists and biologists are telling us that all this is "biological warfare" and the militarists and moralists are telling us that war is innate in human nature and "you can't change human nature" they say. Hence war was, war is, and war will ever be with the human race!

But alas, they all deceive us and themselves with their own words.

Biological warfare is the hunt for food from other species

Human warfare is the hunt for destruction of the same species.

The difference is tremendous. And what makes it so horrible is that soldiers have no desire to kill the fellows of the other side.