

COMPASSIONATE FRIEND

JOURNAL OF BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY INDIA



Beauty Without Cruelty

AN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL CHARITABLE TRUST

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Cover

PIG

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EDITORIAL

Discarding simple life, the life of service, men and women hanker after sophisticated finery to satisfy their vanity. To them having shampooed hair in order to look pretty is an asset, no matter if the poor rabbits are blinded by raw shampoo put in their eyes for testing in the laboratories. The gin traps used to catch fur bearing animals assail the innocent with spiked teeth (of the traps) and the caught animal lies in agony for days until released by death. If one cherishes the tusks of elephants, the facile way is to kill them by poisoning! As the elephants love jackfruits, the latter are sprayed with killer pesticides and scattered in the forests inhabited by them. For the elephant it is a wrenching death. The stories are galore of various other creatures such as dogs, snakes, whales, karakul lambs, etc., becoming victims of excruciating pain before they die.

Any amount of money is spent on advertising which lure the people to buy goods or services having no creative or aesthetic value. But advertising can be used to good purpose also, by imparting a glare of publicity to our organization's work. The advertising firm of Mr. Frank Simoes has very kindly designed a series of attractive advertisements, free of charge for our organization. The first round of these six advertisements has been completed in "The Times of India." BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY (India Branch) is deeply grateful to the firms and individuals who have so wholeheartedly contributed towards this advertising space; we have received donations ranging from Rs. 10/- to Rs. 8,000/-. Free advertising space has been very generously given to us by "Readers Digest", "Mid Day", "Business India", "Purchase", "Beautiful" and "India Today".

Responding to these advertisements, our membership has increased considerably and many people have now taken to buying cruelty-free products only. This helps eradicating gradually the macabre exercise inherent in the use of costly products derived from the reckless killing of innocent animals.

S. M. Masani

(This issue has been kindly sponsored by J. R. SHAH FOUNDATION TRUST.)

FROM MY DESK . . .

At our VIth Annual General Body Meeting our President, Mr. Akbarali H. Jetha, and our Vice President, Ms. Nalini Z. Metha were re-elected. We welcome them and the new Members of our Executive Committee. Even though our movement is 21 years old internationally we are a very young society in India. There is tremendous scope for expansion and we look forward to this coming year as an opportunity to actively help the animal world.

With the object of furthering our cause in September 1980 some BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY members made a trip to Gujarat, covering Ahmedabad, Mehsana and Rajkot. It was very encouraging to receive such an enthusiastic response at the 13 B. W. C. programmes (lecture & film) held under the auspices of different organisations. We are grateful to all those who helped at the functions. Our Press Conference in Ahmedabad and some advertisements released through the help of three companies got us an excellent coverage both in the national and state newspapers.

Our Gujarati members will be happy to know that we have decided to publish the first issue of a Gujarati magazine in January 1981. This magazine will contain almost the same matter as COMPASSIONATE FRIEND. Both English and Gujarati issues will be published simultaneously every quarter. We have already received post-cards from certain members requesting that Gujarati issues be sent to them instead of the English magazine. Those members from whom we do not hear will automatically continue to receive COMPASSIONATE FRIEND.

BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY (Sponsoring AHINSA Products) has loaned the brand name of AHINSA to Tudor Cheese (Ootacamund) who have already started manufacture and marketing of AHINSA Vegetarian Cheese. There is a very good demand for this cheese even outside Maharashtra. However, we are continuing our efforts to persuade more dairies in India to make use of microbial rennet in place of calf rennet.

This year doves have been included in the list of birds permitted to be exported from India. Pigeons and doves are messengers of peace and good-will. They are considered almost sacred and are fed by persons at street-corners and squares all over the world. Several animal welfare organisations, including BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY (India Branch), have sent protest letters and telegrams requesting that Government impose a ban on their export.

Diana Ratnagar
Chairperson

OF ANIMALS AND MEN

by Raman

Grief, on earth, I believe, is a consequence of either human folly or vanity. Folly, by its very nature cannot attract censure and hence, we must essentially look upon vanity as the source of all ills.

If justice in its noblest form is to prevail, then the lord of guilt is to be borne, not only by, erring individuals in particular, but by mankind in general. Any movement bearing a reformatory character, ought to carry a deep understanding of man's psychic complexities. Accusation should have self-realisation as its aim and abandonment conviction as its prime object. A revolution with confrontation, rather than concurrence as the goal will obviously lead to despair, more so, if the ultimate beneficiary is not one of the contending parties.

Before we proceed ahead, it is necessary to know where we are. We will realise that man himself is a trespasser on this earth. To claim ownership of any part thereof is theft and to grant permission to share, the glory of this planet is an evil that is equal to ownership. The commonest tendency is to extoll human virtues, engaged in serving fellow creatures and thereby create an impression that man, though a Satan himself, is also the venerable saviour. We may have to remind ourselves, that any harm caused to anything on earth is a shameful sin, and a subsequent act seeking to alleviate and compensate for such harm is by no means a favour, but a morally inviolable duty. An act of love or sympathy is only restorative and does not leave the recipient any better, than what he was prior to such deprivation. Having cleared our path off the cobweb of our own ego, we can perceive and pursue our objects with greater vigour and clarity.

A great thinker had once said, "Animals never kill for sport. Man is the only animal for whom killing and torture are a pleasure in itself". The great Bernard Shaw put it more succinctly, stating that, "When a tiger kills a man it is ferocity but when a man kills a tiger it is sport". Barbarism has existed in every age of civilisation. The cruelty of man upon man has itself been disturbing too but the attitude of man towards the mute and unprotesting animals has been almost sadistic. The slaughter of animals for the beautification of one's body, itself becomes even more tragic. Such a situation can be produced only by those of us who have totally lost a sense of righteousness and justice, an absolute lack of consideration and a complete deadening of one's invaluable guide for the sense of propriety conscience.

The procurement of ivory from elephant tusks, is a story, that makes sad reading. A wooden beam weighing hundreds of kilograms is suspended from atop and a spear several feet in length is inserted in its centre, with its sharper end obviously facing downwards. Through an ingenious method this deadly weapon is connected to a trip-chord concealed in the foliage below. The unsuspecting animal has to just trip over the chord to bring death crashing down on itself. If it is realised, that the elephant is not a very puny creature it can be deduced that it will take quite a few days before the creature ultimately responds to the call of the angels. The poacher has in the meanwhile set so many traps, that he has quite forgotten about his victims. Insanity is not only the birthright of aristocrats but has also invaded the realm of the so-called spiritualists. Sitting on a leopard or deer skin may or may not create an atmosphere vibrating with the spiritual functions of a Swami but nevertheless the demand is not only for the skin, but skin without blemish. The result – a trapped animal that has to suffer the pains of having a red-hot metal driven through the wrong end – the effect—a death that may not be instantaneous and a skin recovered in its original glory.

An Indian Maharaja adorned his palace with the heads of over 250 tigers. The process adopted to hound these magnificent cats are not even reflective of the hunting abilities of the benevolent king. The cat would be tracked down by his servile courtiers and once the animal was surrounded by a virtual wall of elephants, the ace marksman would down his quarry from the top, with several rounds of lead bursts. The result – a lost wonder. The reason – vanity. It seems to me, an almost unwritten law in nature, that the endowment of beauty on any living being is often and ultimately designed to bring disadvantage to its possessor. To carry on oneself anything of pecuniary interest or value ought to lead the individual to a situation that may be undesirable from the point of view of the higher and spiritual goal, man is intended to attain.

Who is actually the culprit, is easy to determine. The poacher who kills and sells the ignominious produce or the buyer who acquires such property? The killer kills for money, for a living, a status and his actions are as blameworthy as any other capitalist and are motivated and justified by identical desires and instincts. It is impossible to prevent the seller from producing a good, either through law or moral persuasion, as long as there is a rich reward for his efforts. The culprit is, therefore, all of us the buyers who provide the economic encouragement through an effective demand.

The instances cited above are not intended to accuse any individual but to only enlighten ourselves, and highlight the gravity of the situation. How would we react, if one of our fair sisters, wives or mothers were to be subjected to shame and death for the sake of a trivial jewel that adorned their ears and noses?

BARBARITY - TODAY

By Suneel Dabholkar

Old MacDonald had a farm,
E - i - ee - i - o.
And on that farm he had some pigs,
Ee - i - ee - i - o.
And here an oink,
There an oink,
Everywhere an oink, oink,
Old MacDonald had a farm,
Ee - i - ee - i - o...

Only if dear old Mac had known what pigs go through these days !

Pigs remind one of dirty, filthy, grey and pick creatures scavenging the dirt around squalid slums and garbage dumps.

It is rather a pitiful sight. But it's worse when they are rounded up by slum dwellers. Five of them pounce on one of them, knock him down and hold him there. One of these men places his big, grimmy foot on the pig's neck - and then the torture begins. The pig's hair is pulled out by the handfuls. Initially, the pig only yelps in pain, but soon its eyes start turning a ghastly red and it struggles to free itself. As more hair is pulled out, nauseating bluish-red patches begin to appear. Not a hair is spared - not even the eyebrows!

At the end of this operation, the pig looks a bloody, hairless hunk of meat - probably this is how the expression "bloody swine" has come into being.

The animal is set free only to be caught again to undergo the same treatment all over again once the hair regrows.

At the slaughter houses, pigs are huddled together in an enclosure, one in which they can hardly stand, leave alone move. Here they line until the keepers feel they are fat enough to be slaughtered. When they reach this stage, they are taken out of the stuffy enclosure. The pig thinks he has been freed. His happiness is shortlived as he is soon bundled into a chamber that holds others of his breed. The stun-man, who now takes over, stuns each pig into a state of shock by passing an electric current through its head. As soon as this is done, a helper yanks the pig up and ties one of its hind legs to a rod hanging overhead. The rest of his body dangles therefrom. The pig is then pushed into the next room where

a man waits with a big, sharp knife. He slits open the pig's throat and its slimy, sticky blood starts pouring out. It is now that the pig dies. Once all the blood drains out, the pig is taken off the rod and his head is cut off and placed with the other heads.

The eyes stare at you blankly, their pink heads devoid of any skin. The meat of this pig is what is eaten. The skin goes to the tanners for further processing.

The hair, known as 'hog hair' in commercial circles, is used to manufacture a variety of brushes – wall, paint and even shaving brushes. Some of the hair is dyed black or brown depending on the nature of brushes to be made.

The brush industry seems to be thriving on pigs in Kanpur and Delhi. Although most well-known brush manufacturers use synthetic bristles for hair brushes and tooth brushes, certain firms still use hog hair. And they will continue to do so until the Government comes in with an effective legislation and, along with local authorities, launches action to stop this barbarity.

MINIMAL DISEASE PIG UNIT

Courtesy 'Ag' (Newsletter of Compassion in World Farming)

Amongst the most obnoxious developments in modern farming are the methods used by the Northern Pig Development Company (U. K.) to produce disease-free piglets. What happens is that the mother sow is slaughtered just before she is about to give birth and her intact uterus is then taken out. Live piglets are removed from the uterus in a disinfectant trap and placed into an insulated container, where they are rushed as quickly as possible, by car and aeroplane, to the customer's farm. When they arrive they are transferred to a newly farrowed sow from another herd, and she then raises them as her own.

The reason for this rather sick method is that during birth, as well as from their surroundings, piglets may otherwise pick up a range of infections. Thus, this minimum disease method prevents piglets coming into contact with a range of bacterial, viral and parasitic infections.

Approximate costs for a selected litter of at least eight newborn piglets is £ 1,000 before delivery.

TO GET UNDER THEIR SKIN

Courtesy 'Statesman' October 1980

Whether by coincidence or otherwise, Wild Life Week saw the most severe sentence being awarded by a court in a case of violation of the Delhi Wild Life Rules since these were promulgated seven years ago. Officials enforcing the rules hope that the court order will act as a deterrent to clandestine traders in skins and furs.

A business man and his two sons were sentenced to three years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 2,000/- each; and the servant to six months' jail and a fine of Rs. 5,000/-.

On October 18, 1978, officials of the Delhi Administration's Wild Life Department had raided their business premises in Sadar Bazar and seized six uncured skins of leopards and the skin of a leopard cat. As they had no legal procurement certificates, they were prosecuted under the Delhi Wild Life Rules, which were formulated on the basis of the Wild Life Protection Act of 1972.

According to the Senior Wild Life Inspector, since 1973, his staff have taken 500 cases to the courts, securing convictions "in 99% of them". But the sentences have generally been light - six months' imprisonment, immediately reduced to probation and a small fine.

As such, he said the traders were not unduly bothered by the rules for they had never had to pay a heavy price for their sins. Should sentences in a few cases be severe, he felt a major step will have been taken in curbing the trade in skins and furs, which is the real scourge of our dwindling wild life.

Trading in skins is a profitable business. A tiger or leopard skin can fetch anything between Dollars 3,000/- (about Rs. 24,000/-) and Dollars 5,000/- on the international market. And procuring them illegally of course is not very costly. It is believed that well-organised operations are continuing despite the Protection Act and stricter checks by the Customs.

Members of certain tribes are actively involved in the operation. The poor among them, who live on the fringes of the forests, are the ones who do the poaching - either trapping the animals, poisoning or killing them. They get about Rs. 300/- a skin from people in the cities who, after stretching and curing the skin sell it for about Rs. 3,000/- to a smuggler.

Skins can be folded into suitcases and so smuggling them out of the country is not difficult. There is reason to believe some diplomats are in league with the smugglers and carry the skins out of the country for them – diplomatic immunity means that their baggage is not subject to Customs examination.

Till 1973 Delhi was a major centre of trading in skins and furs. Officials say that while some of them closed down their establishments, or made a show of going into some other trade, many still function in a clandestine manner.

“Skins are no longer brought to Delhi by trappers or their agents” the Senior Wild Life Inspector says. “Agra and Kanpur are probably the procurement centres now.” But most of the exports, at least in Northern India are routed through Delhi. That the trade is still functioning is evident – since January 1980, 85 cases have been registered against the traders.

One of the biggest drawbacks in curbing the trade is that the Wild Life Protection Act does not operate in Jammu and Kashmir: the state has its own legislation, there are some major differences in the categories into which animals have been placed.

The effect of this discrepancy is that a trader can get a legal procurement certificate issued for the skin in Jammu and Kashmir and is therefore permitted to own it; that gives him much scope to arrange for its export.

Kashmir is known for its taxidermy and the stitching of fur and leather garments. While even in the past most of the furs were sent there for curing, now almost all the skins collected from poachers in different parts of the country find their way there. The skins are not merely put into good shape they get “legalized” as well.

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Discover, if you possess anything that was obtained through pain to others? Understand, that of all acts of crime and sin, those which affect the weak and defenceless are the least desirable, for the ill-feelings of the weak are far more destructive and harmful than the physical threats of the strong! Comprehend, that beauty was meant to be enjoyed not abused. Realise, that the consequences of evil need not affect the evil-doer himself but may haunt an innocent entity amongst us not at all connected to or responsible for the event. Believe that without a buyer there cannot be a seller and many a time we serve by non-indulgence. Refrain from buying a good that was born of harm and if you do so, it shall be your contribution towards the preservation of God's wonderful creations. Remember, nothing on earth deserves humiliation other than your own ego!

“SHOOT NOW - ENJOY AGAIN & AGAIN”

By Pratima Sinha

Nimrod's hunting days are over even in the Game Paradise that is Africa. Cruelty must be changed into sympathy for preservation. Hunting, Hemingway style, is for the last few. Antlers as wall trophies are not the 'in' thing in today's society; lion and zebra skins as bed or sofa spreads are totally out; cheetah-skin coats are considered ghastly and ostrich plumes and leopard skins are no longer evidences of marksmanship; elephant legs as card tables are a clear sign of barbarity, Hunt-style.

Safari, is today, or rather should be what it originally means in Swahili, **Journey**; not a bang bang destructive warpath march. The spirit of the age is changing and thank God for that. The Safari look is 'in'. There is still a lot of shooting going on, but of course the weaponry is no longer the final products of gunsmiths but those of cameras and film companies. Telephoto and wide-angle lenses have replaced the notch and head-sight; filters and yards of films have replaced ammunition. The trophy? Not the dead and mounted head of some poor animal but of coloured shots and slides for folks back home. The pleasure? No not "How did you get that mean-looking lion with one bullet, Sam?" But "Gosh Sam, how did you get the lion to yawn for you at a distance of 8 feet?"

Crowned cranes step daintily like ballet dancers; a family of baboons noisily welcomes another; suddenly you are engulfed in man-tall elephant grass. Suddenly faced with Jumbo, one holds his breath - it's magnifique. The bull pricks his ears and raises his trunk to catch the tell tale smell of manbated breaths - he moves off lazily as if to say 'I am the lord of all I survey'. A Cape buffalo, in the company of 30 or so, saunters off lazily with a perky bird on its back busy finding juicy morsels from the corners of its ears and the folds of its hide. Cameras click and hum as a Grant's gazelle is being given the death-chase - the big cat takes a few sprints to catch its prey and disappears into the nearest thorn hedge. Wart hogs trot along with their tails up; in front strolls a Secretary bird. Under an Acacia tree sits the King and his harem, fully satisfied after a meal of Zebra.

Streams join lakes bringing coolness to the land. Water holes are beauty spots and death traps. But this is the Paradise and God created it that way. No useless and wanton killing; only just for food. The balance of Nature will be disrupted only by one wrong step taken by man. We must keep our destructive, inquisitive noses out of it, to be put in only when the need of preservation arises; or when we go on a Safari to enjoy. All that talk about hunting being a noble sport should be confined only to the story books and waste-paper baskets. Shooting with the camera is now a noble sport, let us practise it before it's too late.