

# COMPASSIONATE FRIEND

JOURNAL OF BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY INDIA



Will it talk?

I've seen one at school

Look, it's moving!

What does it eat?

Pity Polly

Pity Polly

Pity Polly

Pity Polly

Pity Polly

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# Beauty Without Cruelty

AN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL CHARITABLE TRUST FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS



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is a way of life  
which causes no creature  
of land, sea or air,  
terror torture or death.

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Magazine edited by  
Ms. Diana Ratnagar

*This issue has been kindly sponsored by*

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## Animal Birth Control for Dogs

An all-India Committee for the purpose of controlling the stray dog population has been formed under the guidance of Mr. Sam Pitroda, the Adviser to the Prime Minister on Technology Missions. The "Talsur" injection ( a single, safe and simple dose castrates a male dog for life and has no side effects whatsoever ) will be widely used. Within three months a detailed programme will be finalised and ready to be put into action. All voluntary organisations and individuals wishing to participate should kindly get in touch with me.

## Disgraceful

The importance of controlling the stray dog population is further understood in view of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation's recent desire to export stray dogs to South Korea where the unfortunate animals would be consumed as meat. **Beauty Without Cruelty** immediately wrote to the Ministry of Commerce requesting that permission should not be granted for such export. It is sad that our Municipal Corporations think of lining their purses through such cruel means as trying to sell dogs for meat or their skin as leather.

## The Loop-hole

Numerous letters were sent to the President of India by readers of our magazines protesting against the ghastly greyhound coursing in which half-starved greyhound dogs tore rabbits apart. Repeated representations to the Centre finally resulted in the Punjab Government imposing a ban on the use of live hares being used. Nevertheless, there seems to be a loop-hole as the ban is brought into force by the Forest Department and there is no mention of rabbits. Once again **Beauty Without Cruelty** is persuading the Government to modify the ban to include "all live animals".

## Wildlife Performances

On the suggestion of **Beauty Without Cruelty**, the Ministry of Environment & Forests sent a circular to all the Chief Wildlife Wardens stating that wild animals in the possession of "madaris" ( made to perform in the streets ) must be licensed and well looked

## Information & Action

after. If not, they should be confiscated. The animals in question are mainly bears, monkeys, snakes and mongoose. This move is a tiny step forward in the right direction and we hope it won't be long before the Government will ensure that no creature ( wild or domesticated, animal or bird ) is made to perform tricks. Of course, the greater cruelty lies in circuses and when animals are exploited by the film industry as in the case of the tigress, Uma Devi.

## Rightful Owners

A written assurance from the Ministry of Environment & Forests has been received by **Beauty Without Cruelty** which states that the "harvesting" or killing of crocodiles for their skin, as desired by some State Governments will not be permitted. We are pleased that crocodiles bred for conservation will be able to keep their hides.

## African Elephants

Are Indian elephants more precious than African ones? It seems so! Indian elephants are protected and no trade in Indian ivory is allowed. However, not only does our country permit the import of confiscated African raw ivory, but has gone a step further by waiving the import duty. In spite of the fact that no one can tell the origin of the ivory, whether Indian or African, when in its carved form, ivory carvings and trinkets can be exported. It is certainly ironical that at the same time Americans have called for a ban on the import of African ivory products.

## Humane Alternative

**Beauty Without Cruelty** has been receiving endless inquiries for information on the Jojoba seed, the oil from which can replace sperm oil derived from the whale. However, due to a limited quantity available, **BWC** has not been in a position to give more than a few seeds for trial purposes to each party. There is no doubt that the project is worthwhile both from the "save the whale" campaign point of view and from the economic aspect.

Diana Ratnagar  
Chairperson



# The Push Towards Extinction

Editorial from *THE HINDU* dated April 25, 1988

Much of the wildlife destruction taking place the world over has to do with the tragically high commercial value the fauna or their limbs command in the global market, thanks to the numerous uses man has found for them. If live birds are avidly sought after for being kept as pets or displayed in zoos, the skins of several mammals are prized for coats and those of crocodiles or other reptiles get transformed into shoes or wallets. Ivory and tortoise shells are of course chiselled into exquisite handicraft pieces which enjoy a ready and lucrative market. Rhino horn is fancied for its use as a handle and, in powder form, for its medicinal property - the astronomical prices it fetches in some countries is attributed to the "aphrodisiac" values it is supposed to possess. Certain kinds of leeches are in demand for their anticoagulant chemicals. Tiger's bones are said to serve as raw material for brewing liquor. And the gall bladders of bears are used in Chinese medicine for treating intestinal and stomach ailments. Therefore it is that the wildlife trade is large and flourishing as are the incentives to flout whatever curbs have been slapped on its various components selectively. Over a seven-year period (since 1981) Japan is stated to have imported 365 grammes of bear gall bladder of Indian origin (worth about 3 billion yen in the retail market) said to have been routed via Singapore. According to one computation, some 4,800 bears should have been killed in the process. Taking action against illegal trade in this area will be difficult, say the Japanese officials, because the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (C. I. T. E. S.) bans trade in all bears (except the sloth bear) native to India and it is "nearly impossible" to tell the gall bladders of the prohibited species from the others. Attempts at controlling international commerce in wildlife are frustrated to some extent by such factors and infirmities.

That at a global meet in Ottawa last year some 40 countries were confronted with allegation of C. I. T. E. S. violation is proof of the leeway that needs to be covered, although the very willingness of the many governments to take note of each other's reported infractions and to demand explanations is seen as a positive development. Japan was among the three countries which came in for some stringent criticism - the other two being France and Austria - and it was blamed for importing large volumes of shells of endangered sea turtles, glands of musk deer and so on. The unabated killing of the black rhinoceros in Africa (the population of which is reported to have declined to one-third of what it was in 1980) and the massive trade in poached ivory which is reckoned to be depleting Africa's elephants by nine per cent a year are considered the most worrying aspects of the challenge. A report presented to the Ottawa meet had it that illegal killings of tuskers far outnumbered "legal" ones and that, if the poaching persisted at this level, the species itself would be in danger. As a means of preventing confiscated stocks of rhino horn from finding their way clandestinely to the international market the World Wide Fund for Nature decided to create a central storage depot for safekeeping and appealed to all countries including India to make use of the facility or destroy their stocks. Its impact on the overall problem of saving the rhino from the avaricious poacher can only be very limited. As for ivory, the Government of India two years ago clamped a ban on trade in ivory and ivory articles, but its enforcement had been foredoomed to a large extent by the permission given to the import of the ivory of the African elephant and the re-export of articles made out of it (although under licence). Wildlife conservation in general and C. I. T. E. S. in particular call for a principled and serious commitment to the cause on the part of the nations that gets reflected in the legislative framework, policy initiatives and administrative drive.



## News : Good & Bad

### Good News

#### **Confiscated Goods Destroyed**

Unsuspecting U. S. tourists return home from vacation to find they have to surrender goods made from endangered species to the possession of the U. S. government. Some of the items seized are spotted cat coats costing upto \$ 10,000, stuffed lizards, guitars made from sea turtle shells, foot stools made from elephants' legs, sperm whale teeth, corals, python and boa constrictor purses and footwear, feathers, talons and beaks of eagles, tusk of narwhal, etc. etc. Such trade now ranks second only to drug trafficking. When storage space runs short, many of these exotic goods are burned because officials believe re-selling them would only stimulate the market.

#### **Argentina's Unique and Important Legislation**

The Asociacion Para La Defensa del Animal (A. D. D. A.) reports that after a long and difficult struggle, all vivisection and dissection of animals has been banned in primary and secondary schools under the aegis of the Ministry of Education and Justice. This was accomplished by the arguments that biology is a life science and it is not coherent to teach at the cost of the death of other live creatures. The campaign is continuing in its efforts to expand the law to include those schools not already covered.

#### **Hospital for Birds**

A hospital in the Netherlands specializes in treating birds affected by oil spills. The majority of its patients are migrating waterfowl that have become victims of oil slicks in the heavily polluted North Sea. The 15-year old Hospital has come up as a result of the growing environmental movement and it treats as many as 700 birds at a time.

### Bad News

#### **Gillette's Animal Death Camp**

The expose in 1987 of the diabolical experiments conducted in the research laboratories of Gillette U. S. A., led to the closing of their internal labs, but they continue to use external labs. They perform Draize tests for substances ranging from deodorants to shampoos. The tests cause innocent rabbits and rats unnecessary suffering due to blistering, burning and peeling skin, substances eating away at their eyes, bleeding from the nose, mouth and anus accompanied with bloated stomachs and wheezing with bloody discharges. Animal rights organisations have therefore called for a boycott of all Gillette products.

#### **Dolphin Murder for Tuna**

In search of yellowfin tunas, a fish in high demand in America and Europe, large groups of friendly dolphins are killed and severely mutilated. The reason being that dolphins tend to swim over schools of yellowfin tunas in the eastern Pacific. U. S. fishermen are allowed to kill only 20,500 dolphins each year, but in 1986, foreign tuna fleets killed some 125,000 dolphins.

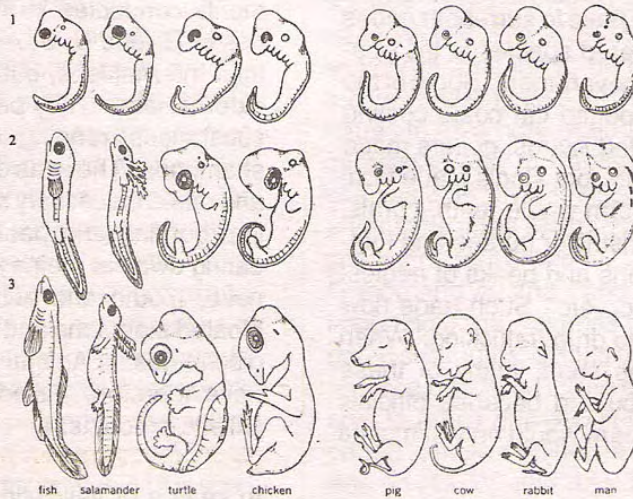
#### **Infanticide**

Half of the cubs born to factory farmed silver foxes in Norway die before weaning - killed by their mothers. Infanticide is another terrifying facet of the fur trade revealed in the Norwegian research paper entitled "Abnormal Behaviour in Farmed Silver Fox Vixens : Tail-Biting and Infanticide". The females usually bite off the body parts of the cubs in the following sequence - tail, hind legs, hind part and fore part. The cubs are not killed because of underfeeding as they are not eaten immediately after killing. The imprisonment of foxes in tiny wire cages cannot but lead to problems such as stress, infanticide and abnormal behaviour. The painful death of the cubs and the stress suffered by the caged mothers is what hurts animal lovers, whereas the industry-profits are being hurt by the death of tens of thousands of cubs.



# Our Common Heritage

These diagrams depict vertebrate embryos in various stages of development. No comment.



Courtesy : SCIENCE EXPRESS

## FORM IV

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I, Diana Ratnagar, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated 31st March, 1988.

Sd/- Diana Ratnagar  
Signature of Publisher



Animal Rights Cooperative

# PHASE OUT 2000

## What it is about

A. R. C. (Animal Rights Cooperative) is a network of societies, groups and individuals who wish to see animals liberated from human tyranny. It is not another organisation, but a device to help speed the process of humane education so essential to building a more compassionate society.

PHASE OUT 2000 is A. R. C.'s logo. It confirms a shared aim to phase out by AD 2000 much of our cruelty toward animals. Given the mounting interest in animal rights, the end of this millenium offers a realistic target year for specific and general purposes.

A. R. C. includes both those concerned with a single aspect of exploitation (e.g. vivisection, factory farming, hunting) and those with a more holistic perspective. Its logo reminds us how much has to be achieved before we enter the next millenium. We have begun to question our savage domination of the natural world and to visualize a better sense of kinship; we are recognising the indivisibility of violence - the connection between our behaviour to each other and our treatment of weaker species. But it is doubtful if we shall even survive another millenium unless we learn to treat our environment responsibly and with a more mature and humane sense of our obligation.

## What You Can Do

The logo is intended to prompt enquiry and imitation. To help instill the concept of Animal Rights and the link with Human Rights, and to

promote unity among all who share this concern, you are invited to use the logo PHASE OUT 2000 on letterheads, envelopes, leaflets, posters, stickers, etc.

The logo can be printed, or reproduced as a rubber stamp, from the specimen at the head of this article. It may be reduced or enlarged. No copyright is claimed. Schools, organisations and individuals may use it as they wish. Additionally, organisations and groups may wish to follow up enquiries with specific campaigning leaflets etc. related to their own



Help  
BWC  
to Expand

We need to widely disseminate the ideals of **Beauty Without Cruelty** and for this we seek your assistance. Why don't you write to **BWC** for stickers and affix them in prominent places, where they will attract the maximum publicity? If you can get people to even ask you what the acronym **BWC** stands for you will have achieved an initial awareness.

Readers are requested to send in their own ideas of how we can further the **BWC** movement. Don't be bashful. Even if you think that your ideas are far fetched, put them down on paper and forward them to us. A man is his own worst critic. You never can tell. What appears outlandish to you, may be just the thing we are searching for. So lets get down to it, shall we?

COMPASSIONATE FRIEND



The other day I had to see my friend Bandoowalla, who happens to be a keen big game hunter. Before I could say a thing, he started cribbing about the stringent Government laws enacted to curb the indiscriminate shooting of wild life. He incidentally is the owner of an arms shop. My knowledge of shikar being a fat zero, I listened patiently.

'Its a shame' he cried 'That shikar, a great training ground for our youth, is being discouraged. If our children are to be denied the sport, the next generation will be spineless.'

'Shooting a tiger, say, helps to develop ones spine?' I asked innocently.

'It takes courage to shoot a tiger' he replied.

'It requires guts to shoot something that can't shoot back?' I enquired 'Who'd have guessed that.'

Only a shikari can appreciate such things' he snapped 'Sitting up all night, waiting for a tiger to grab the bait requires pluck, I may tell you.'

You mean sitting up on a machan?' I remarked 'Thats dangerous? Maybe tigers are capable of jumping thirty feet into the air and mauling someone straightaway? Is that it?'

Try to visualise the thrill of the chase and you will appreciate what I'm saying' he snorted.

'I'll try' I agreed 'Tell me. Do tigers get the same thrill that shikaris get?'

'Its no use talking to you' he sneered 'Probably the only tiger you've seen is in a circus.'

'Why do you think I'm so inquisitive?' I explained. 'I did see a circus tiger once and got scared, although we were separated by the thick bars of a cage. And here you say you can face the animal square on! What nerve.'

## The Brave Shikari

Bunny D'Souza

'Its nothing' he twirled his moustache 'Why I've even come face to face with a lion.'

Really? What did he say?' I asked eagerly. 'Are you trying to be funny?' Bandoowalla barked.

What for?' I said alarmed 'they say that St. Francis of Assisi used to talk to birds. And Jim Corbett knew the language of the jungle. You can't blame me for thinking that animals also talk.'

'I can't he retorted 'You are either born with brains or you aren't.'

'Do the animals you kill have brains?' I enquired.

'If they did they'd have been human' he said heatedly 'Just like you.'

'So where's the fun in hunting dumb creatures?' I commented ignoring his rude remark 'What I'm saying is, where's the challenge if they can't match wits with you? It's like stealing candy from a child.'

'Its not so easy' he said gruffly 'Animals have a certain cunning instinct. Bagging one is a super achievement all right.'

'I'm still not convinced that shikar is a great sport.' I admitted.

'Dash it' he thundered 'Shikar develops ones powers of daring. One can take anything in ones stride'.

Good' I said 'You are the right person to join our signature campaign, in support of Ambedkars "Riddles". Thats what I've come for.'

'Me?' he trembled 'Keep me out of it for God's sake. You want my shop to be burnt down?'



I often see caged birds in private homes and wonder how people who love their own freedom can forget the freedom of others.

Have you ever wondered what flying means to a bird? In nature they have the liberty of not only flying but also choosing their own food. A bird when free, never eats bread and milk and when caged, never gets the variety of fruits that it finds in the wild.

There are many things you can do for birds.

**Do not Cage Birds :** Usually birds sold as pets are caught when still young. Most of them die because of lack of natural food before even reaching private owners. If they survive, they have to get used to the food given by the owners. It is surprising what type of foods we give to our pet birds. I have known people offering things like ice-cream, tea and chocolates.

If you already have a pet bird do not let it loose by mistake. Your bird might fly out, get lost and die either of hunger and thirst or be attacked by predators. The desire to fly is so deep rooted that the bird may try it but due to lack of practice, it cannot fly for long distances.

If you must keep a bird, try to get a bird that is unable to fly for some reason or one not wanted by its owner.

You must find out what food it is normally used to and feed it accordingly. Having a pet is a responsibility almost similar to bringing up a child. Like a child, your pet is dependent on you for its food, health, company and love. When you have a pet you must also know a vet in case your bird needs medical help.

Keep your caged bird where light and noise can not disturb it at night. The cage must be covered with a thick cloth also in rainy or cold weather. A bird by nature is very clean. You must provide it with enough water in a big tray and sand for it to bathe. The cage must have a proper perch and should be big enough to allow it to flutter its wings. Most birds need to be kept in the sun in the mornings and evenings but not in the harsh rays of the afternoon sun.

## Birds are for Flying

Nalini Mehta

Birds get scared of cats. You may be sure that your bird is protected in its cage, but it does not realise it is safe and if a cat is in the same room it is liable to flutter its wings a lot, at times causing injury to itself. Loud noises also frighten birds. It is best to explain to children not to fire crackers in the vicinity of not only birds but also other animals who are liable to panic.

If you are going out for a long period you must leave your pet bird in the hands of some responsible person who will see to its well being.

**Do not Free Caged Birds :** Out of compassion we find people buying caged birds to release them. This encourages people to catch fledgelings from their natural nests. Birds from natural jungles get lost in concrete jungles of our cities and die. To understand the plight of a bird lost in our city's concrete jungle, imagine the condition of a child lost in the natural jungle. Scared of wild animals, and not able to find his own kind, the child runs hungry and thirsty and is probably scared to death.

**Do not Cause Injury to Birds :** Ladies after cleaning used combs, usually make a ball of loose hair and toss it outside the window. Birds which alight on such knotted pieces, get their claws entangled with the mass and find it difficult to fly. People in cars make a habit of throwing food scraps onto the road. Birds are attracted by this and being oblivious to traffic are run over.

**How to Care for Injured Birds :** Occasionally you might come across injured birds. Lift them avoiding further injury. Most birds stay quiet when in the dark hence, handle a sick or injured bird by gently throwing a towel and covering its eyes. Slowly transfer it to a cage or box with a few holes. The box should not be much bigger than the bird otherwise it may further injure itself. It would be best to approach a veterinary doctor promptly.



## A Bird

From a story by *Barbara May Easton*  
(*Fur & Feathers*)

Fragile little creatures, young birds. And, if injured only the most gentle care can save them.

For most of his life Roy Ivor worked his gentle "magic" with such injured wildlife. Though their wings or legs were in splints, and their bodies bandaged, even the huge, powerful eagles, never attacked Roy Ivor. Birds loved him. When healed, he set them free.

The injured were many. Caused often by traps and guns. (A Snowy Owl's leg - found in a Leg-Hold Trap. What terror and pain did he suffer? Did he even survive?)

Roy became especially known for his touching experience with a tiny bird, left alone (because it was crippled) by its parents. For Roy and his fledgling, it was an adventure in trust so delicate, that few ever experience it. Thank you Roy - and all like you who care for wildlife!

Each time Roy Ivor placed the tiny crippled bird gently on the floor, it toppled over. In the bird bath, it fell over into the water. Then Roy Ivor did a remarkable thing.

He took a tiny piece of leather, some cotton batten and some thread and a needle. Then he proceeded to make the tiniest pair of sandals you could ever imagine.

When he finished he very carefully pushed the little bird's crooked toes through the sandal's toe holes. He filled up the gaps with soft cotton batten and fitted them securely around the baby bird's ankles.

Then a wonderful thing happened. For the first time in her life, the little bird stood up on her own two feet.

She gazed at Roy with bright adoring eyes, and from then on followed this wonderful man faithfully everywhere.

Just before Christmas, when Roy was 99, he died.

Such a quiet hush that day throughout the forest. But by Christmas, the woods once again rang out with the song of wild birds, free and beautiful. An entirely appropriate tribute to this brilliant "friend".

## Pretty- Polly, Pity-Polly, Pity, Pity, Pity...

*Adam Moledina*

Wild birds are mostly captured with nets or bird-lime. Unwanted species are either left to starve to death in the nets, or torn from the twigs covered with the sticky bird-lime and thrown away to die.

Of those captured, 50-80% die at the trap site due to fear, stress, overcrowding and ignorance of their needs. Mortality rates remain high during transit to, and at the exporters' premises, dependent on the delicacy of the species and the care provided.

Death rate continues to be high during air transit due to bad labeling, lack of food and water, and overcrowding which facilitates the spread of disease. Some birds are so tightly packed that they have no room to move until some of them fall and die. Aircraft delays can prove fatal to entire shipments.

Bird shops often have no knowledge of avian diseases and the specialized care some species require. Every morning, more bodies are thrown into the bin. There are many bird shops, many in badly sited premises where overcrowded birds are subjected to the hot sun and the noise and fumes of heavy traffic.

Please visit some of these shops and see for yourself.

How many birds die to produce one little prisoner in a cage?

Ten? Twenty? More?

### Live birds

permitted to be exported from India :

Weavers Buntings Crows Mynas

Munias Parakeets Sparrows Pigeons



## Bird Ring Netted in Undercover Operation

An 18-month Fish and Wildlife 'sting' broke cover last October when across nine western and southern states (in America), 17 people, (including a police officer) were arrested and 24 others charged with the sale of eagles, hawks, owls and other protected birds. Seven of those arrested have entered into plea agreements and await sentencing. The maximum penalty carries a two year jail sentence and a \$ 250,000 fine.

The birds were stuffed for mounting and



Rare birds killed to make headdresses for sale to tourists.

Photos: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



some of their feathers used for Indian-style headdresses. Gallup, New Mexico, was the chief center for sales to dealers and collectors from Europe and the eastern U.S.

The charges stemmed from the killing of 600 birds but according to Fish and Wildlife's chief enforcement officer, Clark Bavin, this number represents only a tiny fraction of the "tens of thousands" of protected animals taken annually by poachers. While there is no estimate of the total traffic in poached wildlife, some Administration officials believe it runs second only in value to the traffic in drugs.

Courtesy : THE ANIMAL WELFARE INSTITUTE QUARTERLY.



## "Suicide" of Birds at Jatinga

### New theory, old phenomenon

**Radhika Ramaseshan**

The phenomenon is bizarre. Every October, thousands of birds come to the tiny village of Jatinga in Assam. The villagers place brightly lit petromax lamps on the ground after dark and the birds dive down into the lamps and plunge to their death. What makes the birds do this? A lemming-like deathwish? A deep-rooted desire to commit suicide? For some years now, ornithologists the world over have pondered this phenomenon and search for explanations.

Now, a young forest officer, H.P. Phukan, claims to have solved the mystery. Phukan spent three years conducting an on-the spot study of the phenomenon and has just published his conclusions ("Death at Jatinga" published by the forest department, Assam Government). According to Phukan, the suicide and deathwish theories are just so much bunk. The birds have no desire to die. Rather, they are lured and trapped by the local villagers who then club them to death and eat them.

Phukan points out that this phenomenon occurs for three months every year (August to October) when migratory birds are in the area, and Jatinga is covered by a thick fog. Says Phukan, "The birds have formed an instinctive association with fog in their search for food. Towards the end of the breeding season, the days become increasingly shorter. This affects the hormonal balance, causing the birds to feed avidly and makes them more restless. This (process) generally occurs at night."

According to Phukan, the birds venture out on foggy, moonless nights, lose their bearings and are instinctively drawn towards any

form of light. At this stage, the wily villagers appear, lure them with petromaxes and hammer them to death.

In fact, says Phukan, the birds long to escape after they have been lured by the bright lights. If they are not clubbed to death, they happily fly off and return to their natural environments the following morning. But of course, it is in the villagers' interests to see that this doesn't happen because the birds acquire a gastro-nomic value once they are killed.

Phukan feels that the so-called Jatinga bird enigma is far more serious than it might appear at first. In just one of the seasons he studied, nearly 17,000 birds were killed by the villagers. The birds were drawn from 32 species (among them, the hooded pitta, the three-toed forest kingfisher, the tiger bittern, the cotton teal, the bronze drongo) and most were not migrants, but "juveniles belonging to the current year's brood". Obviously, such wanton killing can hardly be good for the ecological balance.

Courtesy : SUNDAY.

## The Die is Cast

**Ikbal Kaul**

Thirty pilot whales beached and committed suicide on the California coastline in February. Five days earlier, according to "Associated Press" the marine mammoths, 26 males and 4 females, seemingly a family, had beached on a 5-km. stretch of the shore, between Bahia de Los Angeles and Bahia de San Francisquito in northern Baja California.

"They are whales that normally beach in large groups," commented Luis Fleischer, director of the National Marine Research and Conservation Programme, U.S. Department of



Fishing. "The cause," he added, "is not known." Similar beachings of pilot whales, he said, have taken place elsewhere in the world. Pilot whales are among the two species in which the practice of mass suicide has been recorded.

The mass suicide seems to have been triggered off by the overwhelming preponderance of the males, who were unable to take life-long partners from among the females, outnumbered as they were 26 to 4. However, it is difficult to hazard a guess. But the American marine biologist is reported to have said it appeared to be a natural phenomenon.

Come October, a terrible annual carnage of all bird life is enacted at Jatinga.

Now after almost a century of terrible slaughter at Jatinga, the insuperable riddle has seemingly been solved by Dr. Suddin Sen Gupta of the Zoological Survey of India.

Dr. Sen Gupta, during his last and final month-long three-member expedition in October 1986, established a close link between the phenomenon and a strange change in the magnetic behaviour of the rocks in the area during the season, which lures birds to their suicidal sorties. Moths and other insects, too, by the thousand, the expedition further discovered, join the suicide bandwagon.

This fantastic annual phenomenon occurs at the village around October, during conditions bordering on the bizarre. When the nights are moonless, when it is dark and drizzling, and the fog overhangs the atmosphere, the local people place petromaxes outside their houses. Men, women and children, all position themselves at vantage points, holding long, thin bamboo staves in their hands. The brilliance of the lamps attracts the feathered folk. They come from all corners of the valley, and dive towards the lamps like homing devices. As soon as the birds come close, they are smashed with flailing sticks.

The lemmings, particularly the Scandinavian species, march en masse to their watery death come spring or autumn. The famous mass migrations and subsequent drowning are bizarre in dimension and grim in magnitude. The rodent comprises four genera inhabiting the bleak tundra of the far northern temperate and polar regions.

Nothing daunts the lemming armies in their forward march. If a barrier blocks them, they mill around it till a burst of panic reaction enables them to overcome it. So bold do they become that they are ready to take on animals they otherwise avoid. They follow man-made pathways, reindeer trails and other similar routes. On reaching a shoreline, they hesitate to rush into the water. Apparently they try to avoid swimming, running up and down the coast.

When there is no choice, they plunge into the sea and swim high out of the icy water, using only their hind legs. However, exhaustion overtakes them quickly. Within about 20 minutes of swimming they drown in the 15-cm. high waves. On the Swedish-Finish border, observers have recorded that they easily crossed a 200-metre wide strait on a calm night, but windy nights spelt doom and disaster for them. A lemming was seen swimming at the centre of a lake 2-km. wide.

The exact cause of the periodic phenomenon has not so far been established. However, several factors have been advanced. These are: population explosion after the last migration and consequential destruction; the best breeding conditions preceding the march; paucity of predators, starved to death due to their decline; changes in food supply or quality; and stressful conditions, like crowding, competition and climatic changes, creating hormonal imbalance, leading to behavioural changes. Nevertheless, recent ongoing Scandinavian studies have shown that the mass movements are normal activity.

Courtesy : SUNDAY REVIEW  
( THE TIMES OF INDIA ).



## Strange Encounter on Coho Creek

*Extracts of true story by Morris Homer Ewin*

Something wonderful and a little mystical happened there in the lonely wilderness of Alaska - something that can be accepted even if it is not fully understood.

One spring morning many years ago, I had been prospecting for gold along Coho Creek on south eastern Alaska's Kupreanof Island, and as I emerged from a forest of spruce and hemlock, I froze in my tracks. No more than 20 paces away in the flat muskeg was a huge, black Alaskan timber wolf - caught in one of Trapper George's traps.

Confused and frightened at my approach, the wolf backed away, straining at the trap chain. Then I noticed something else : it was a female, and her teats were full of milk. Somewhere, there was a den of hungry pups waiting for their mother.

From her appearance, I guessed that she had been trapped only a few days. That meant her pups were probably still alive, surely no more than a few miles away. But I suspected that if I tried to release the wolf, she would turn aggressive and try to tear me to pieces.

So I decided to search for her pups instead and began to look for incoming tracks that might lead me to her den. I finally spotted the den at the base of an enormous spruce. There wasn't a sound inside. Wolf pups are shy and cautious and I didn't have much hope of luring them outside. But I had to try. So I began imitating the high-pitched squeak of a mother wolf calling her young. No response.

A few moments later, after I tried another call, four tiny pups appeared. They couldn't have been more than a few weeks old. I extended my hands, and they tentatively suckled at my fingers.

Perhaps hunger had helped overcome their natural fear. Then, one by one, I placed them in a burlap bag and headed back down the slope.

When the mother wolf spotted me, she stood erect. Possibly picking up the scent of her young, she let out a high-pitched, plaintive whine. I released the pups, and they raced to her. Within seconds they were slurping at her belly.

What next? She needs nourishment, I thought. I have to find her something to eat.

I hiked toward Coho Creek, and spotted the leg of a winter-killed deer sticking out of a snowbank. I cut off a hind quarter, then returned the remains to nature's ice-box. Toting the venison haunch back to the wolf, I whispered in a soothing tone, "Okay, mother, your dinner is served. But only if you stop growling at me. C'mon now. Easy." I tossed chunks of venison in her direction. She sniffed them, then gobbled them up.

Cutting hemlock boughs, I fashioned a rough shelter for myself and was soon asleep. At dawn I was awakened by four fluffy bundles of fur sniffing at my face and hands. I glanced toward the agitated mother wolf. If I could only win her confidence, I thought. It was her only hope.

Over the next few days, I divided my time between prospecting and trying to win the wolf's trust. I talked gently with her, threw her more venison and played with the pups. Little by little, I kept edging closer - though I was careful to remain beyond the length of her chain.

I awoke at dawn, stirred by the sound of the pups nursing. Gently, I leaned over and petted them. The mother wolf stiffened. "Good morning, friends," I said tentatively. Then I slowly placed my hand on the wolf's injured



leg. She flinched, but made no threatening move. This can't be happening, I thought. Yet it is.

I could see that the trap's steel jaws had imprisoned only two toes. They were swollen and lacerated, but she wouldn't lose the paw - if I could free her.

"Okay," I said. "Just a little longer and we'll have you out of there."

I applied pressure; the trap sprang open, and the wolf pulled free. Whimpering, she loped about, favoring the injured paw. My experience in the wild suggested the wolf would now gather her pups and vanish into the woods. But cautiously, she crept towards me. The pups nipped playfully at their mother as she stopped at my elbow. Slowly she sniffed my hands and arms. Then the wolf began licking my fingers. I was astonished. This went against everything I'd ever heard about timber wolves. Yet, strangely, it all seemed so natural.

After a while, with her pups scurrying around her, the mother wolf was ready to leave and began to limp off toward the forest.

...Four years later, after serving in World War II, I returned to Coho Creek in the fall of 1945. After the horrors of the war, it was good to be back among the soaring spruce and breathing the familiar, bracing air of the Alaskan bush. Then I saw, hanging in a red cedar where I had placed it four years before, the now-rusted steel trap that had ensnared the mother wolf. The sight of it gave me a strange feeling, and something made me climb Kupreanof Mountain to the meadow where I had last seen her. There, standing on a lofty ledge, I gave out a long, low wolf call - something I had done many times before.

An echo came back across the distance. Again I called. And again the echo reverber-

ated, this time followed by a wolf call from a ridge about a half-mile away.

Then, far off, I saw a dark shape moving slowly in my direction. As it crossed the meadow, I could see it was a black timber wolf. A chill spread through my whole body. I knew at once that familiar shape, ever after four years. "Hello, old girl," I called gently. The wolf edged closer, ears erect, body tense and stopped a few yards off, her bushy tail wagging slightly.

Moments later, the wolf was gone. I left Kupreanof Island a short time after that, and I never saw the animal again. But the memory she left with me - vivid, haunting, a little eerie - will always be there, a reminder that there are things in nature that exist outside the laws and understanding of man.

During that brief instant in time, this injured animal and I had somehow penetrated each other's worlds, bridging barriers that were never meant to be bridged. There is no explaining experiences like this. We can only accept them and - because they're tinged with an air of mystery and strangeness - perhaps treasure them all the more.

Courtesy : READER'S DIGEST.





**Editorial Note:** Mr. Jayantilal Mankar was the first recipient of the Prani Mitra Award in 1966. *Beauty Without Cruelty* ( India Branch ) was honoured to have him as its President. His sudden passing away in 1977 created a void. As a tribute to his great enthusiasm and drive, below we print the text of his speech on *Religious Concepts delivered as a Delegate to the XXI World Vegetarian Congress in The Hague.*

India's message from pre-historic times has been the message of "ahinsa", a message of harmlessness, innocence, goodwill and brotherliness for one and all. Peace and goodwill for all, have their foundation in self-denial, self-abnegation and self-control. Simple living primarily means simple and natural diet. The natural diet of man is vegetarian diet.

If we hold views similar to Darwin we must also hold that man first lived on fruits, nuts and vegetables, for his immediate ancestor, the ape, lived on this kind of food. In the natural state man has neither sharp claws nor teeth for tearing his victims. Hence he could not use flesh for his food.

The Vedic injunction is "Ma Hinsiya Sarva Bhutani" ( Do not injure any creature ). The Yajur Veda (2.34) asks the seekers after nappiness to use butter, milk, ripe naturally fallen fruits and pure water for their food. It has been said that the Rishis lived on fruits, flowers, roots and tubers. The idea also finds an echo in the "Ramayana".

In the "Markandeya Puranam" ( chapter 49 ) a very detailed description is given of the life of the primitive men. It is clearly stated that they obtained from certain trees all they needed for living.

If we ransack the Scriptures of other nations we would find the same thoughts. In the Bible we read "I have given you every herb-yielding seed and every tree in which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed: to you it shall be for meat". The Sura-E Araf of the Holy Qur'an presents a similar picture.

## Do Not Kill, Cause No Harm

Jayantilal N. Mankar

In the "Encyclopaedia of Religions and Ethics" Vol.I, page 195, we read in relation to Greek civilization "In the Golden age men lived upon the fruits of the earth". But through his own fault he came to slip away from the path of rectitude. He took to flesh-eating. This war has been going on in the world for thousands of years. Higher spiritual forces have repeatedly manifested themselves in the bodies of Avatars, Peghambars and Rishis and called upon men to return to the natural way of life. The Hindu "Smritikars" ( law makers ), Manu and Yajnavalka condemned flesh-eating in very strong terms.

A thousand years rolled by and the voice of the reformers became dim in the din of seekers after luxuries. The spiritual reaction to this life of licentiousness appeared in the form of Mahatma Buddha and the great Jain "Thirthankara" Mahavira ( 500 B.C. ) according to Indian traditions. In the "Dhammapada" of Buddha we read : "All men tremble at punishment, all men fear death. Putting oneself in the place of others, kill not, nor cause slaughter". Buddha further says: "As a mother looks after her only child, till it is alive, so should we have great heart and kind mind for every living being". Shri Mahavira Swami ordains: "Do not harass any living being... all should look after the life of others, as carefully as they look after their own life". These teachings had a tremendous influence not only on India but on many other countries. Their message, through the self-denying Bhikshus spread far and wide. Their teachings also gave the world one of the best kings - Shri Ashok Vardhan.

A thousand or more years passed and once more "hinsa" invaded our country. Animal sacrifices that had been condemned re-ap-



peared. Then came the Vira Saiva wave. At the Parliament of Religions held at Calcutta in the year 1937, the representative of Vira Saivism told his audience that the Agamas like the Upanishads assigned esoteric significance to Yagnas. Animal slaughter found no place in those Sastras.

When these reformers had lost their momentum, foreigners from the North-West entered India and, people again took to flesh-eating. The reaction to this was the powerful Vaishnava wave. The chief protagonists of this wave were: Shri Ramanujacharya, Shri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Shri Vallabhacharya, Guru Nanak and others. In Guru Nanak's Scripture, we read: "That garment becomes polluted which is touched with blood. How can the mind of the persons, who take blood be pure?"

In modern times India came in close contact with colonialists. Government servants imitated the habits of their masters and became flesh-eaters. A number of reformers entered into this new arena and continued the old eternal fight. Rishi Dayanand, the founder of the Arya Samaj tried to prove that the use of flesh diet was highly injurious to the economics of this society. Guru Ram Singh of the Namdhari cult was a strict vegetarian and he asked his followers to live on vegetarian diet only. Mahatma Gandhi, the last though not the least of our reformers, was a very powerful advocate of a natural vegetarian diet.

About the time that Mahatma Buddha and Mahatma Mahavira appeared in India, two great reformers, namely Laotse and Kungtse ( Confucius ) preached the same truth to the great nation of China. Here is a quotation from the teachings of the first reformer: "It is the way of TAO not to act from any personal motive, to conduct affairs without feeling the trouble thereof, to taste without being aware of the flavour, to accept the great as small and the small as great, and to recompense injury with kindness".

The great reformer Confucius also lived a life of purity and simplicity. At the table of a king, he took only such diet as did not involve shedding of blood.

The history of the Semitic religions is similar to Hindu culture, so far as dietetics are concerned. Here are one or two passages from the Bible: "He that killeth an ox is as he slew a man. He that sacrificeth a lamb is as he who cutteth off a dog's neck": "Destroy not him with thy meat for whom Christ died. For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. For meat destroy not the work of God". Lord Jesus was the Prince of Peace. He was a vegetarian.

About Prophet Muhammad, Stanley Lane Poole says: "Prophet Muhammad's ordinary food was dates, water and barley bread. Milk and honey were luxuries of which he was fond but which he rarely allowed himself." True followers of Islam, Sufis and Parhezgars, have always refrained from a flesh diet. Moulvi Idris Ahmed said: "Islam does not attribute any sanctity to the sacrifice of animals - it requires sacrifices of inner selves. The flesh and blood of sacrificed animals shall never reach God but your piety ( the inner sacrifice of hearts ) shall only reach God".

Hermes, Apollonius and Plotinus in Egypt, Pythagoras in Greece, Cicero and Seneca in Rome, emphasized the same truth. About six centuries before the Spanish conquest of Mexico, a king of very humane disposition built at Tezecuco a vast temple in honour of Quetzalcoatl from which all blood was excluded and where only flowers and incense were offered.

Friends, today the circumstances are more favourable for propagating our ideals than they were before. Today the world has become one great unit - modern inventions have destroyed the boundaries of geography. Reformers have appeared at the same time both in the East and in the West. Dayanand and Gandhi, Tolstoy and Bernard Shaw. Thoreau and Emerson, Kellogg and Oldfield and very many other great men have all advocated the cause of vegetarianism and humanitarianism. We have to make one strong and united effort to achieve our goal.



# Vegetarian Recipes from our Readers

## Chillie Pickle

**Seema Bharwani**

### Ingredients

1 kg. green chillies  
1 kg. sugar  
750 gms tamarind  
1 bottle cooking vinegar  
1 tsp. methi seeds  
1 tbsp. jeera  
1 tbsp. turmeric powder  
1 inch piece ginger  
5-6 cloves of garlic  
1 tbsp. salt  
1/2 kg. oil  
15-16 fresh neem leaves

### Method

Cut the chillies into big pieces.  
Soak the tamarind in water and after half an hour smash the tamarind and make it into a fine paste.  
Grate methi seeds, jeera, garlic and ginger. Heat the oil in a container, pour the above grated masala in it and stir for some time till it changes colour. Pour the sugar, tamarind water, salt, chillies, vinegar, neem leaves; stir well till mixed properly.  
Remove from fire and cool. Then pour into jar.

## Mawa Burfi

**Jigna M. Parekh**

### Ingredients

250 gms Mawa  
125 gms granulated sugar  
Pista flavour or green colour

## Soya Cutlets

**Esmerald D'Souza**

### Ingredients

250 gms Nutrella granules  
2 onions chopped fine  
2 tomatoes chopped fine  
1 piece of ginger grated  
1 tsp. salt  
1 tsp. garam masala or jeera powder  
1 tsp. corriander powder  
4 green chillies  
3 slices of bread  
oil to fry

### Method

Soak the Nutrella granules in warm water for half an hour.  
Drain the water from the granules.  
Heat 2 tbsp. oil in a cooking vessel, fry the grated ginger till light brown, add the onion, tomatoes, granules, salt, chillies, corriander powder, garam masala or jeera powder. Close the vessel and allow the mixture to cook on a low fire till dry.  
Remove from fire and allow to cool.  
Soak 3 slices of bread in water, remove bread from water and squeeze well. Add this to the cooked mixture and mix well.  
Make 15 to 16 cutlets.  
Heat the oil. Deep fry the cutlets until brown.

### Method

Put Mawa in a pan and heat it for 5 minutes, stirring continuously.  
Add sugar and mix well till it melts.  
Add a few drops of pista flavour or green colour.  
Remove it from fire and spread the mixture out evenly on a greased board.  
Allow it to set; cut into squares or diamond



1: LEOPARD  
"I'm caught in traps and then killed for my beautiful fur. Humans wear my skin on their bodies to make them look nice. Don't you think it looks better on me?"

2: ELEPHANT  
"My feet are used as umbrella stands and my tusks are used to make ivory chess sets".

3: MINK  
"I used to be a wild animal, but now I'm bred on farms just to make coats for people to wear".

4: RABBIT  
"I'm killed for my skin to make coats and shampoo is dropped in my eyes - they say I can't cry, if I could I would".

HURT OR KILLED FOR US TO LOOK PRETTY  
THINK BEFORE YOU CHOOSE BEFORE YOU BUY

5: WHALE  
"I, and my relatives have been living in the oceans for millions of years. We are gentle and peaceful creatures. Brutal people kill us and use our bodies for oil and cosmetics. Our bodies are fed to mink which are then made into fur coats".

6: SEAL  
"I'm clubbed to death when I'm a baby. My skin is made into coats so that humans can look beautiful".

7: CROCODILE  
"My species is one of the oldest in the world. Instead of being treated with dignity we are farmed and hunted and our skins are made into handbags and shoes".

Beauty Without Cruelty  
INTERNATIONAL CHARITY