



When did we loose our compassion and respect for animals?

When you were a little child one of your first experiences of books was probably a book with cardboard pages. On every page there was a beautiful picture of an animal living in our surroundings, on farms, in a zoo or freely in nature. Your father or mother would put you in his or her lap, kept the book in front of you and pointed to one animal at a time copying their sounds. Here you got your first lesson in love and respect for animals.

Not long after this you could by yourself point to an animal and say “baa-baa”, or “tweet tweet”, or “oink-oink” etc. This was a situation of consideration, love and security.

Gradually you were transferred from your mother’s breast to meals at the table, where several dishes were served to you by the same people who had earlier taught you to love, consider and care for these animals. You were to eat what was served from the plate, on the spoon towards your open mouth, and at the same time you got to hear how good it tasted and how nutritious it was for your body. It’s called “meatballs”, “black pudding”, “chicken” etc. Nothing in this situation reminded you of your earlier experience of the picture-book, except for the names of the animals, for example “chicken”. But you did not connect these names with the pictures from the book, since there was no similarity between the dish on the plate and the living, yellow, soft chicken you remember from the picture-book. After some time



you learned to like the food that was offered to you. If the parents, at the time of presenting the food on the plate, instead would have given different alternatives and told the child “here are mashed bananas”, “here are different root vegetables”, “and on this plate lies a rabbit or chicken” and explained what kind of treatment the animal had suffered, it is unlikely that we would have one single meat-eating child on this earth after such a frank introduction to food.

It seems totally unnatural, and against every human’s pure conscience, by the experience of e.g a chicken, lamb, fish or bird to beg one’s mother or father to catch it and prepare it for dinner. Man has no such natural association. You would never hear a child, when standing in front of a calf, demand that it should be killed so that he/they could eat it! Despite this there sit young people at McDonalds eating hamburgers, sausages and chickens. When meat is processed it is altered in taste and shape which is misleading and creates a food culture that in no way correspond to mans true nature. If people were made aware about the process of producing e.g. a hamburger, it would in a healthy and natural civilization be absolutely impossible to present it as food for human consumption.

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