

Creature QUOTES



ADVANCING TOWARD FREEDOM FOR ALL SPECIES

COMPILED AND EDITED BY SBH CLAY



MY PRAYER

Once I prayed,
"Make me fast and swift,
Lord, like the gazelle.
Let me dazzle like
the jeweled peacock.
Give me the strong and
fearless step of the tiger."

*Now I pray, "Help me
be patient Lord.
Humble me,
make me tortoise-meek.
Teach me beauty in
the simple joy
of a sparrow's song.
Make me to know
strength,
in the guileless step
of the
tiniest sheep."*

BY CAROL ROSE KELLING



May 25, 1987, issue
of the *Christian Science Sentinel*
cssentinel.com

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*PHOTO CREDITS APPEAR AT THE END OF EVERY CHAPTER

INTRODUCTION

Humans are fascinated by animals.

We delight in books about real-life and make-believe animals. The more animal illustrations adorning the pages, the more enthralled we are.

We scour mountains and meadows, oceans and ice floes, sylvan settings and skies in search of free-roaming, free-swimming, free-flying animals to watch, photograph, sketch, paint.

We lavish our companion animals with treats and toys, look to their joy to lift our spirits, and count on their affection to comfort our hearts.

We foster and adopt animals from non-profit shelters and rescue groups, set up sanctuaries for elderly and infirm animals, and donate our days and our dollars to these life-saving missions of mercy.

For all our devotion, though, we sometimes seem not to recognize the needs and wants of animals. We unwittingly partake of activities that hurt, physically and mentally, the very creatures we admire and seek to protect from harm.

We pay zoos to buy or breed wild animals, so we can gawk at innocent inmates serving life sentences. We call them educational exhibits and say we are supporting species conservation.

We fork over money for circuses and marine parks to steal youngsters from their families and freedom, so we can laugh at unnatural tricks performed by unhappy elephants brutalized with bullhooks and depressed dolphins confined in concrete tanks. We call it entertainment.

We buy racetrack and rodeo tickets, so we can be amused by animals forced to run fast or buck wildly. We don't bat an eye at the whips and spurs. Nor do we object to babies roped on the run, flipped, jerked, dragged and trussed. We call these events sports and assume the animal athletes are enjoying themselves.

We share our dining tables with an assortment of animals. But we choose not to make a connection between the cooked, cut-up corpses on our plates and the once-living-moving-breathing creatures to whom these body parts belong. Because we never knew them as thinking, feeling individuals, we are able to distance ourselves from them emotionally. We may even pretend that they willingly sacrificed themselves to please our palates.

In every era, there are a few people who refuse to tolerate this two-faced treatment of animals. Viewing the established uses of animals—food, clothing, research, labor, sport, entertainment—as unnecessary, unnatural and unethical, these rebels buck the *status quo*, not simply quietly in their private actions, but boldly in the public arena. With the power of their persuasive pens, they instigate reforms that, though incremental, improve animals' lot—changing first minds and hearts, then the laws of the land. As a result of their courageous efforts, types of animal abuse once deemed acceptable, such as cockfighting and dogfighting, are now considered immoral by most citizens in developed nations, and so are taboo.

Trends in recent decades—the raising of food animals in claustrophobic "factory farms" and its counter-trend of guilt-free "happy meat," the spike in consumption of flesh products in developing countries, the insatiable demand by researchers for animals used in laboratory experiments, the introduction of animal cloning and genetic modification, the expanding influence of animal-dependent industries on politicians' wallets and votes—have produced loud, sustained protests by animal defenders. And, thanks to the advent of weblogs, electronic petitions, texting, and Twitter, their SOS is reaching all corners of the globe.

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As a result, more and more people are educating themselves about legalized, institutionalized violence against animals. Many are making it known that improving the egregious conditions in which animals live is not enough. Abolishing unjust laws that allow the animal-exploiting economic system to exist is their ultimate goal.

Students of this subject have plenty of facts at their fingertips. An Internet search for the words "animal books" yields 121 million results. Searches for "animal law" and "animal rights" produce 80.6 million and 75.7 million results, respectively. "Animal abuse" has been written about more than 26.7 million times. "Animal protection" makes a strong case with 21.3 million references, as do "animal justice" (15.4 million) and "animal welfare" (6.78 million).

The three most popular websites in the "animals as food" category—which reaps a whopping 155 million search results—are hosted by vegetarian and vegan organizations. "Animals and the environment" rings up 128 million mentions, not surprising given the proven link between animal agriculture and global warming.

"Animals as property" is another hot topic (82.2 million); it will mushroom further as more law schools add courses in animal rights law to their curricula. Other favored topics: "animals as persons" (21.7 million), "animals as slaves" (21.4 million), "animal emotions" (7.62 million), "animal equality" (3.48 million), "animal compassion" (3.3 million), "animal morality" (2.94 million), "animal intelligence" (2.52 million), and "animal ethics" (2.41 million).

How can the average reader sort through the millions of words written on animals' behalf and select the most ethical thinking by the best minds?

Here's where *Creature Quotes* comes in. Designed to be a sampling of the most progressive, enlightened, ethical ideas that promote and defend animals' interests, this e-book quotes hundreds of luminaries who have beckoned the way toward justice for animals in every generation.

These crusaders for creatures share traits possessed by change-makers in every civil rights and social justice cause. They combat unquestioning acceptance of tradition for tradition's sake. In their view, the shackles of blind loyalty to the past must be sundered. To them, the words of James Russell Lowell's 1844 anti-slavery poem—"New occasions teach new duties; Time makes ancient good uncouth; They must upward still, and onward, who would keep abreast of Truth" (*The Present Crisis*)—apply equally to the abolition of animal slavery.

Indeed, the more radical thinkers featured in this collection of quotes refuse to accept a hierarchical order that permits a supposedly superior group to oppress and exploit supposedly subservient groups. They abhor the exclusivity of tribalism, wherein clannish insiders marginalize—if not annihilate—outsiders. To them, there is no such thing as an exploitable, irrelevant, excludable inferior, whether nonhuman or human. No "us" versus "them." To them, we are all one.

Many *Creature Quotes* authors are visionaries. They have recognized, ahead of their contemporaries, that *all* beings, irrespective of their method of moving (four legs, two wings, one fluke) or their means of communicating (singing, neighing, barking), will one day be treated with equality, justice, respect, empathy, integrity, humility, generosity. These qualities, when fully lived by humanity, will result in the release of *all* of Earth's inhabitants from *all* forms of enslavement, these prophetic animal advocates are convinced.

The open-to-change reader who receives the transforming message in the following pages may find himself challenging thoughts, language, habits, deeds—his own, his peers' and those of society at large.

He may find himself examining motives—his own and those of the individuals and institutions he was taught to trust.

He may find himself rethinking the legal system that considers nonhumans the rightsless property of humans.

He may find himself concluding that justice for animals requires ending their status as *possessions*—the equivalent of inanimate *things*—owned by humans.

He may find himself agreeing with Professor Steven M. Wise, who teaches animal rights law at Harvard Law School and who wrote in his book, *Rattling the Cage: Toward Legal Rights for Animals*, "Few legal rules are as doddering, or as unjust, as the legal thinghood of every nonhuman animal."

The open-to-change reader may realize that humans will advance *only* in proportion as they free themselves from the false belief that man, for all his comprehensiveness and complexity, is substantively *superior* to his simpler creature kin.

He may decide that animals have been given, by their Maker, the same spiritual substance and nature as their human brothers and sisters. The same essential wants and needs (for nourishment, safety, peace, protection). The same inviolate right to life and liberty. The same opportunity for happiness. The same enjoyment of earth's soil, sea, and sky. The same freedom to form families and friendships of their own volition.

He may conclude that the most profitable "use" he can make of animals is to tap into their joy, meekness, affection, innocence, patience, perseverance, purity, faithfulness, forgiveness. The unknown author of the Bible book of Job (12:7-10) articulated the teaching role of animals this way: "[A]sk the animals what they think—let them teach you; let the birds tell you what's going on. Put your ear to the earth—learn the basics. Listen—the fish in the ocean will tell you their stories. Isn't it clear that they all know and agree that God is sovereign, that he holds all things in his hand—Every living soul, yes, every breathing creature?" (see *The Message* interpretation by Eugene H. Peterson).

The open-to-change reader may see that when he leaves behind carnivorous tendencies and predatory habits—whether they take the form of moral evils such as envy, greed, revenge, duplicity, or carnal temptations such as excessive appetite, uncontrolled passion, lust for killing and tasting flesh—he will be exemplifying true manhood (and womanhood). And he will be acting as an example for the so-called carnivores, his co-inhabitants of earth, to emulate.

Interestingly, more than one author in *Creature Quotes* makes the spiritually sound case that beasts of the forests and fields and fish of the seas will no longer prey upon flesh once they are regarded and treated by man as innocent, immortal ideas of the one universal Mind. This outlook lines up with the prophecy by Isaiah (11:6-9) that a little child (the pure, receptive-to-good, childlike thought) will lead the gentled wolf to lie down beside the gentle lamb.

The reader of *Creature Quotes* has a choice. *Not* open to change, he can sit back comfortably and wait for peace among all beings to arrive in a future generation. Or, open to change, he can take the message in the ensuing pages to heart, let it shift his mind and stir his soul, and thus begin, right now, his own advance toward freedom for all species.

LEGEND

Old English spellings are modernized, but not in poems.

Old English upper-case words are lower-cased per modern grammar, but not in poems.

Words may have British spellings, depending on the country in which the translator, interviewer, writer, editor, and/or publisher resides.

For artistic reasons, type does not usually run the entire width of the page.

Type is left-justified, with line breaks at places where one would naturally pause when reading aloud.

◆ A diamond in front of a quote means it applies to general ethics (the way humans treat other humans), but can, from a wider perspective, be applied to humans' ethical treatment of nonhumans as well.

■ A square is used as a bullet point or for spacing purposes.

* A single asterisk notifies the reader of an explanation below.

* * * Three asterisks separate quotes that appear in the *same* book/article/blog/speech, etc.

<> The lesser-than-greater-than symbols separate quotes that appear in *different* works by the same author.

..... Six dots separate poem verses from one another.

..... Sixteen dots separate authors from one another.

The author's name usually appears *only* at the end of *all* of his quotes.

The short biographical lines under each author's name purposely do not mention animal rights interests and activities, to avoid repetition.

The source of a quote (the name of the book or magazine or website, for example) is usually identified when it is known.

Further information on the sources of many quotes may be found on the Acknowledgments page in Chapter 1.

Caution: Please do not assume the quotes in this e-book that were found on various websites are accurate. Many of them came from secondary sources; when retyped from original documents to those websites, or from those websites to *Creature Quotes*, they may not have been recorded correctly. Refer to original sources, if possible, to find the quote exactly as the author wrote it, word for word, with the precise punctuation marks. While each quote here is intended to be a faithful rendition of the original, perfection cannot be guaranteed.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

If no one had ever written down their thoughts about animals, there would be no *Creature Quotes*.

If no one had ever published their thoughts about animals, there would be no *Creature Quotes*.

If no one had ever uploaded those published thoughts to websites, there would be no *Creature Quotes*.

Put another way, the humans throughout history who have been sufficiently motivated to record and disseminate their thoughts about animals deserve most of the credit for the existence of *Creature Quotes*.

Indeed, this e-book would be an unrealized dream were it not for dozens of websites that contain books, articles, essays, poems, lists of quotes and quips, blogs, opinion pieces, editorials, and letters on animals.

Though there are many fine sites, here is a short list, alphabetically ordered, of those that provided *Creature Quotes* with the widest selection of quotable material or the most complete biographical information on authors:

All-Creatures.org
AnimalRightsHistory.org*
AnimalsVoice.com
ChristianVegetarian.co.uk
IVU.org

Animal-Friends-Croatia.org
Animal-Rights-Library.com**
Abolitionist-Online.com
Gutenberg.org
Wikipedia.org

*A treasure trove of primary-source historical literature on animal rights and welfare, on humane education and legislation, from antiquity to the present

**A compendium of ground-breaking texts on animal rights by 35 classic and 62 contemporary authors, compiled by Oxford graduate student Pablo Stafforini

Creature Quotes would be visually dull and dry were it limited to text. That's why its prose and poetry has been paired with evocative pictures of animals, whose rainbow colors, expressive faces and interesting activities liven up these pages. Most of the photos come from Flickr.com, which presents a wide array of talented photographers from around the world. Dozens of Flickr shutterbugs, both pros and hobbyists, have generously donated their finest animal shots to *Creature Quotes*. This caring-sharing spirit is embodied in professionals [Maria Jo](#) of The Netherlands, [John Maarschalk](#) of South Africa and [Julie Scott](#) of Canada, as well as in able amateurs [Jay Diaz](#) of New York, [Marji Beach](#) of California, and [Julian Robinson](#) of Australia, who each allowed *Creature Quotes* to showcase many of their works.

Non-Flickr photographers, too, have made important contributions. One standout creator of the nature photos scattered throughout *Creature Quotes* is [Bob Schillereff](#), who captures the grace of wild ones in their wild habitats. Then there are the painters and illustrators whose animal artwork further enhances these pages. Some of the pieces are centuries-old classics; others are the creations of gifted contemporary artists such as [Dan Piraro](#), [Ann Ranlett](#), [Guy Stoye](#), [Daniel Toledo](#), [Madeleine Tuttle](#), and [Norma Wilson](#).

Names of and contact information for all the fine-art and photographer phenoms to whom *Creature Quotes* is indebted can be found in the extensive Photo Credits section at the end of each chapter.

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There is one website in particular whose owners and photographers deserve five stars for their first-rate images (available as long as the use is non-commercial and educational) of beautiful wild creatures—namely, FirstPeople.us. Another helpful site, Wikimedia, earns kudos for its huge assortment of high-quality images made available under permission-free Creative Commons, GFDL or public domain licenses.

The journey to e-publishing *Creature Quotes* wouldn't have gotten underway were it not for part-time web designer Deborah Florentine, who fashioned the lovely logo and made stellar suggestions for chapter design. She knows how appreciated she is! When Deborah's family obligations made further work impossible, the design-production team of Belinda Recio and Beth Worton came to the rescue—literally. What this experienced duo has offered in the way of creative ideas, technical savvy, feedback, long hours, and commitment to excellence cannot be adequately explained or compensated. A simple "thank you, this e-book would *not* have come to fruition without you" will have to suffice.

From *Creature Quotes*' conception to completion, kind friends have extended every sort of aid imaginable. Suzanne M. and Patti H. stored copies of chapters in their computers. Marji Beach, Matt Bear, Marc Bekoff, Paul Berry, Harold Brown, Karen Dawn, Ben DeVries, David Cantor, Judy Carman, Gail Christensen, Stephen Clark, Gary Francione, Janice Fredericks, Don Gwillim, Max Herman, Frank and Mary Hoffman, Lee Hall, Bron Humphreys, Sulekh Jain, Steve Kaufman, Bob Linden, Andrew Linzey, Jim Mason, Anne Muller, Vasu Murti, Kristen Lee Ohanyan, John Ratcliffe, Martin Rowe, Richard Schwartz, Philip Steir, Claudette Vaughan, and Tina Volpe supplied up-to-date email addresses of hard-to-locate authors and other valuable information.

Whenever permission beyond an author's approval of his own quotes needed to be secured, editors and other relevant authorities at publishers and animal-rights groups and websites graciously gave a green light.

Tribute is paid to the following publishers' personnel: Ed Blomquist, Sally Ulrich and Julie Mahler (The Christian Science Publishing Society), Trysha Le and Candice Bradley (HarperCollins Publishers), William Johnson (Iridescent Publishing), Gayle Wattawa (Heyday Books), Robert Sommer (Robert H. Sommer, Publisher), Chris Griffin (Broadview Press), Katie Gallof (Continuum International Publishing Group), and Peter Miljanich (New York University Environmental Law Journal).

Likewise, praise goes to these individuals at the following non-profit groups and websites: Frank and Mary Hoffman (All-Creatures), Laura Moretti (Animals Voice), Claudette Vaughan (Abolitionist-Online), Morgan Lance (Animals Asia Foundation), Bernard Franolic (Animal Friends Croatia), Don Gwillim (Christian Vegetarian Association-UK), James LaVeck (Humane Myth), Hope Bohanec (In Defense of Animals), Jody Marriott Bar-Lev (Cool Green World), Zel and Reuben Allen (Vegetarians in Paradise), M. Butterflies Katz (Vegan Poet), Sharon Callahan (Anafloa and Animal Liberty), Charles Patterson (*Eternal Treblinka*), and John Gilheany (Clergy Animal Rights).

If anyone who was instrumental in the development of *Creature Quotes* has been unintentionally overlooked here, please forgive us, and stand up and take a bow. The creatures of the world send you this message: "THANK YOU. BLESS YOU." You can quote them on that.

SANCTUARIES

WHOSE RESIDENTS' PHOTOS ARE FEATURED IN *CREATURE QUOTES*

Animal Acres (courtesy of Erin Pfeifer, administrative operations manager)
Acton, California, U.S.A. 661.269.5404 AnimalAcres.org

Animal Place Sanctuary (courtesy of Marji Beach, education coordinator)
Grass Valley, California, U.S.A. 530.477.1757 AnimalPlace.org

Big Cat Rescue (courtesy of Jamie Veronica, president)
Tampa, Florida, U.S.A. 813.920.4130 BigCatRescue.org

Center for Great Apes (courtesy of Patti Ragan, founder and president)
Wauchula, Florida, U.S.A. 863.767.8903 CenterForGreatApes.org

Edgar's Mission (courtesy of Pam Ahern, founder and director)
Willowmavin, Victoria, Australia 0408.397.301 EdgarsMission.org.au

Farm Sanctuary (Jo-Anne McArthur and Derek Goodwin, photographers)
Watkins Glen, New York, U.S.A. 607.583.2225 FarmSanctuary.org

Greyhound Protection League (courtesy of Melani Nardone, NY/CT chapter)
Penn Valley, California, U.S.A. 1.800.446.8637 Greyhounds.org

Limbe Wildlife Centre (courtesy of Simone de Vries, project manager)
Limbe, Cameroon +237.79732524 LimbeWildlife.org

Lola ya Bonobo, Les Amis des Bonobos (Vanessa Woods, photographer)
Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo LolaYaBonobo.WildlifeDirect.org

Maple Farm Sanctuary (courtesy of Cheri Ezell-Vandersluis, co-founder)
Mendon, Massachusetts, U.S.A. 508.473.7539 MapleFarmSanctuary.org

Moon Bear Rescue (courtesy of Jill Robinson, founder, Animals Asia Foundation)
Hong Kong, China +852.2791.2225 AnimalsAsia.org

Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary (courtesy of Terry Cummings, co-founder)
Poolesville, Maryland, U.S.A. 301.428.8128 AnimalSanctuary.org

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Beauty's Haven Farm & Equine Rescue (courtesy of Theresa Batchelor, founder)
Morrison, Florida, U.S.A. 352-258-9409 BeautysEquineRescue.org

Hakol CHAI Horse & Donkey Sanctuary (courtesy of Nina Natelson, director)
Tel Aviv, Israel 03.6243242 HakolCHAI.org.il
Alexandria, Virginia, U.S.A. 703.658.9650 CHAI-Online.org

PHOTO CREDITS



Photo Credits for Chapter 1 of Creature Quotes

Cover

P 1 ROYAL BLUE BUTTERFLY (*Myscelia cyaniris*)

Photo by Julia Young Brubaker/© Mark the Seasons

Photographer's email: marktheseasons@gmail.com

NOTE: THIS PHOTO ALSO APPEARS, REVERSED, IN CHAPTER 28

Prayer

P 2 "AMAZING NATURE" PEACOCK a.k.a. BLUE PEA FOWL (*Pavo cristatus*)

NOTE: This is the National Bird of India and Provincial Bird of Punjab, Pakistan

Location: Natural Science Center, Greensboro, North Carolina, U.S.A.

Photo by Valerie Abbott — ucumari/Flickr (Creative Commons 2.0 license)

Photo seen here: www.flickr.com/photos/ucumari/4462782407

Photostream: www.flickr.com/photos/ucumari

P 3 "HOUSE SPARROW AT KINGSTOWNE LAKE" (*Passer domesticus*)

Location: Kingstowne Lake, Alexandria, Virginia, U.S.A.

Photo by Steve Hersey — stevehdc/Flickr (Creative Commons 2.0 license)

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Photo Credits

P 11 ASIAN LADY BEETLE a.k.a. LADYBUG (*Harmonia axyridis*)

Location: Winfield, Illinois, U.S.A.

Photo by Bruce Marlin/Wikipedia (Creative Commons 2.5 Generic license)

Photo seen here: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Harmonia_axyridis.jpg

Photographer's website: www.cirrusimage.com

NOTE: THIS PHOTO APPEARS ON THE PHOTO CREDITS PAGE OF EVERY CHAPTER

End of Photo Credits for Chapter 1 of Creature Quotes

