

Christians Against All Animal Abuse

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With The Remarkable Lady Of Goult

Norma Benney is the village artist of a delightful French village in Provence. Indeed, it is an idyllic tourist attraction around 20 miles out of Avignon. But this delightful septuagenarian is not only renowned for her oil paintings; she is equally prominent in her community for her animal activism. Indeed, whereas her home on the inside is furnished with exquisite oil paintings, her outside is recognised by posters dealing with, commonly termed, animal rights literature.

It takes real guts to make a solitary stand for our cause within a large village prominent for its butchers and French cuisine restaurants, yet Norma Benney is a forceful lady - a power for the locals to contend with - yet, beneath that militant, front there beats a heart of extreme sensitivity and compassion towards all life that suffers. We can all be brave when accompanied by other activists but Madam Benney takes her stand alone. Well, at least it is so to visible view! But round her, I feel quite certain, are the hosts of Heaven blessing her and spurring her on. (Hebrews 12:1). Yes, each week when the travelling cinema comes to the village hall, Norma is on the steps of its entrance, complete with her latest poster. As you'll see, the week I was privileged to join her - having spent a wonderful week in her home - we were making a stand against the fast-food chain: Kentucky Fried Chicken.

The Kind Of Dilemma Unique To Us

Yes, we've just returned from our holiday. Doreen is concerned about how the garden now looks. Indeed, a pretty looking garden is something we'd all like. As for myself, I'm disturbed over something that slightly more troubles me. I happen to be categorised as having glaucoma and new drops have been prescribed. Having sampled these and experienced a horrendous side effect that cannot be confirmed, what am I to do? A local GP quite matter of fact states: "if you don't take these drops which may well have nasty side effects you'll go blind. The warnings upon the pamphlet are merely there so that however disastrous the effects you could experience you cannot sue the manufacturers"! Well, I don't doubt that appalling side effects often follow from products that have involved cruel animal experimentation. The Draize test is a typical one in which helpless bunnies have all types of chemicals forcefully dropped in to their eyes; and often for mere cosmetic testing. Proctor & Gamble no doubt being the vilest culprits in this appallingly cruel procedure! I sense, however, that the vast majority of folk we rub shoulders with couldn't care a toss, They may well reason - provided they think at all! ~ 'animals are put on this earth for us to eat, so why not experiment on them as well? Provided we might benefit what's the problem?' Yes, this is, undoubtedly, the mentality of the masses.

Well, I seem to have digressed here! What I want to know is; 'do I hand the future of my sight in to the hands of those wed to the drug and chemical Mafia? Or do I look for alternative therapies for glaucoma? Indeed, I learn that Cannabis (Marjuana) lessens pressure in the eye ~ and I know that for arthritics it's almost a miracle drug! - I also know that the herb Coleus certainly lowers intro-ocular pressure - as witnessed by at least one ophthalmic surgeon. Indeed, better news still, so does inexpensive Ginkgo Biloba! But more enlightening still: one learns that Laser Trabeculoplasty treatment is now the first line of treatment offered to glaucoma patients at both St Thomas's hospital London as well as at Clayton Hospital in Wakefield. However, as for elsewhere in the UK, the power of the drug industries appear to pull the most weight; and are making millions at our expense through collusion with this present government's highly questionable and unethical priorities

Indeed, the 'assumed' caring amongst the general public may well reason: 'should the torture of countless animals result in one breakthrough for some horrendous human disease, so let it be!' In other words: the end product for humanity is all that counts. But, sadly, they are too short sighted to see that the desensitising of all our highest qualities towards the torment of weaker forms of life than our own has a knock on effect. Who would want to live in a society in which the most scientifically advanced and the most morally and spiritually stunted bore rule? Yet, under this present government's regime, we are unbelievably going that way; and unless stopped in its tracks, this society will evolve into a living nightmare. I'm no prophet of doom, but I sense that Armageddon may be nearer than we realise.

Products Of The Desensitisation Process

We in the animal activist cause will always be tormented in our conscience at the exploitation of weaker forms of life than our own; while the majority are but a product of the desensitisation process. Yes, I've just come back from France where smartly dressed genteel ladies and cultured, well-groomed men ~ with much courtesy and charm -- smiled over to me under a canopy of a sun-blest restaurant. The trees were overshadowing us from above; there was a sense of tranquillity and peace all around us; and as we partook of a vegetarian meal - veganism was unobtainable! ~ others, complete with serviettes and exquisite cutlery, were tucking in to the dead bodies of animals; and for all we knew, possibly, pate defoie gras and veal. Not to mention mouth-watering and sumptuous frogs legs and snails! Indeed, I was so grateful to The Almighty that I have morally evolved from their level of 'dining out in style'.

Admittedly, 'where ignorance is bliss it's folly to be wise'; but, surely, there must be times when Christians realise that the strong are put upon earth to protect the weak! If we haven't got that message across after over two millennia of Christian teaching, just what have our rival branches of Christendom been teaching? Actually, I sense they have been very much soaking up to whatever ruling powers there have been! It's a reminder of Pope Pius the Twelfth's early sentiment towards the Third Reich: 'You give concessions to us and our priests, and we'll instruct our faithful to give full backing to you!'

Politically speaking - apart from the Green Party - I sense the other parties would not stretch to consider the fate of weaker forms of life with whom we share this planet. But then I ask: how long are we going to share our life with anyone? At my age of 74 I could say that every day is a bonus. But then, is it not so for all of us? We go to sleep at night and may never awaken to behold another day. Our heart might give out at any time. The Bible aptly says: "There is but a step between me and death". Dear Reader, would to God that the likes of a Tony Blair, Patricia Hewitt, David Blunket, Lord Sainsbury and a Colin Blakemore realized the above! What a different country this would then be! Yes, and - as the good book says - 'after death the judgment, when we must inevitably reap what we have sown. But again, people don't like to face reaping what their life has sown so they are usually eager to find a scapegoat kind of a Faith. And such a concept is very

much found in glib distortions of Christianity that, for selfish reasons, thrive: "Jesus paid it all brother". "His Father will not demand the penalty from you; Jesus took your place, and it covers sins past, present - yes, and future as well!"

Yes, how very convenient! No wonder that such a fundamentalism with its Calvinistic bias finds such an eager following these days; while deeply thought provoking approaches - comparable to those found amongst Unitarians and Quakers - appear to interest but a handful! I tell you: I've lived to see it all, and the way the masses of so many 'bom again believers' are hoodwinked – apologies to the masons! - is to my mind a matter of grave concern. Let us never, ever, underestimate animals; and not least because God has seen fit to create far more of them than of us. So - who knows? - we could be one of them next time round! As privileged humans we have a most awesome task to fulfil! Yes, to do what they are unable to do: improve the state of the world as guardian stewards of creation.

Animals, Like Us, Are Far More Than Robots!

Mind you, I'm not saying that animals are void of all choice, To affirm the latter would be to view them as robots or automatons. It would be refusing to differentiate between the animals that entered the Ark, and those that chose otherwise! The fallen state of so many of them - the fruit of Adam's original transgression ~ is for all to see around us. Sin is the most contagious disease and the whole of creation is blighted by the sin of the first human couple. I'm too much of a realist to ever deny that this fallen creation is 'red in both tooth and claw'. I've confronted nothing less than altruism as well as vice amongst several animals, both studied and encountered. Consequently, I cannot agree with a past writer Dostoevski who implied that all animals are innocent and void of sin. How blind to the reality of a fallen universe could such a past philosopher become?

When little more than an infant, I asked my pet dog to release a baby rabbit from its mouth. And, if ever a moral battle went on, it did with my darling fox terrier! Indeed, when the rabbit was released and scuttled off to Mummy, my admiration for our pet increased a hundred fold. What is more, I equally know that Grey-friar's Bobby didn't just return to blind Jocks's grave purely out of cupboard love. Nor do I believe that, when the twin towers were struck in Manhattan, that a dog went back in to the building to assist its master solely from a past conditioning. I simply know that the more I learn about animals, the more scientifically and philosophically we appear to have been deceived. And now ~ only this month - the latest thing to upset the apple cart is a dog that recognises words as brilliant as does a four-year-old child. Wonders never cease! 'Animals frequently know far more than we care to know!'

To any who say in one breath that animals are without sin; and in the next breath that they are, frequently, more loyal and faithful than a human, is obviously nonsensical. But then, such illogical reasoning is not confined to a certain breed of animal lover, I see an equal absurdity amongst those "banner of truth' Protestants whose theology denies free will while awarding virtue and punishing vice! As for animals, I was once severely bitten

by a vile, unfriendly, hound pampered and cosseted from its birth. And another, that had been pitilessly reared and beaten without mercy, has bountifully blest me.

Consequently, I have no need to read what past philosophers or so called Puritan reformers " or indeed Latin fathers - considered animals to be. What a mixed up hotchpotch they were!. In biblical terminology I am aware of 'horrendous beasts of prey who prowl stealthily by night' and 'ready to pounce'. Yes, and of others 'who wait upon their God'. I'm sure that - like humans - some will appear worthy of ending up with a golden harp; while others an appropriate cast iron shovel! Yes, Christian believers are not the only ones to reveal illogical inconsistencies: animal activists who boast to be Vegan while feeding Pussy with fish must also fall in to this category. So must those who rescue a few Carnivorous beasts and then sacrifice loads of gentle herbivores in order to feed the massive brutes!

More than once, another vegetarian who made no qualms at all about partaking of dairy produce has criticized me for occasionally eating fish! Well, Our Lord probably ate fish; so did St Francis! Indeed, Brother Anthony preached to them, 'and they all sat up in an orderly line, the smaller at the front and the larger behind them'. Methinks, If you want to believe that, you'll believe anything! Nevertheless, big fish are eating little fish all day long: it's primarily their all-consuming pastime. Well, I can logically say that for each one I've eaten I've been the means of saving a whole host of smaller ones! Yet - in marked contrast - such reasoning could hardly be made out for perpetrating the dairy industry. For surely what we do to cows is far less excusable! Do you wonder why I prefer to drink a pint of good old ale? It hardly goes down well with the Mothers Union: pushing me to have a cup of tea 'respectably' whitened with cow milk. Yes, and usually accompanied by home made scones, baked in 'old style' slaughterhouse lard, and covered with 'luscious' cholesterol fillings of butter!

A Spiritual Stirrer Preferable To A Spineless Jellyfish

Is it any wonder that I've been called a turbulent priest, very difficult to assess? A local retired butcher knows me for having preached at his chapel! He spied me in the passenger seat of our car. There I was, enjoying a bottle or two of Guinness - they do say it's good for you! - but I sense that, somehow, he was rather taken back. Under his breath he was thinking: 'I can't weigh up this strange cleric. Every other week he is spouting about animals of all things. Yet there is human need to be met. I give it to him: he's a good preacher, but now he's drinking alcohol in full view of us all; and today is Sunday!'. Yes, he nodded, smiled and went away, in deep thought. But you know: I don't blame him. I blame instead the ones who formulated the theology of his chapel. I tell you that the hypocrisies of my generation are the fruits of what the churches of the past instilled into the masses. Don't blame the older people of the pew; blame the past preachers of the pulpit! It may not apply today, where standards are at an all time low, but the morality and distorted standards of the past were the fruits of church teaching; and in many respects, it stank to high heaven.. The fact is, the churches have had an overabundance of clergy comparable to a jellyfish's disposition: soft. slimy and spineless. The poor sea

creature cannot help its predicament for it was made that way by God. Influential clergy, however, are not! Therefore, 'they are without excuse'.

Criticizing Past Germans While Denying Animals Rights!

I tell you this: outside Holywell. Indeed, intermingled within the most delightful parts of Wales, but just off the beaten track or main highways, there are Animal Belsens. And why are they there? Because 'respectable' folk void of guts, turn a blind eye to it all. Then how dare we ever raise a voice of criticism against past Germans who lived in close proximity to Belsens, and remained mute. I tell you: animal Belsens are all around us simply because 'respectable' folk prefer not to get involved. Indeed, what a spineless, slimy, breed so called education has made of the masses. If this is the fruit of education then make me an ignoramus any day! The rot that results from an academic system that encourages one to outdo another rather than lift him up is for all to see. One well remembers overhearing a pushing mother say to her offspring: "Score higher marks than the upstart up the street, and we'll get you a new bike!" The lad got his bike; but grew up to walk roughshod over others. How sad that she hadn't put compassion before competitiveness; kindness before conquest! No wonder St Paul denounced the wisdom of this age as utter foolishness in the sight of God. (I Corinthians 1: 25-29)

Let us fight, fearlessly, for the protection and Godly welfare of animals, As for their so-called Rights. I sense they can only have what a society may agree to give them. Negroes had no rights. Not so long ago, neither had women! As for Homosexuals and Lesbians, they appear to be eagerly fighting to acquire them in the Anglican Church! Well not until a society agrees to give it to them does a breed or culture receive Rights! I can only say that the way British society appears to be heading, I hope that Paedophiles are not the next to acquire them! I sincerely hope that the animals in laboratories and those bred for the food and dairy industries will be stamped as: 'Number One: Top Priority'. As for those bred for blood 'sports', God grant that this will be the final year of their fiendish oppression!

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Young Activists Should Capitalize On Their Assets

Protesting outside the bullring, on the side of a busy thoroughfare, was this attractive young lady photographed by Doreen (as are the rest of the photos!) Well, I must admit that she would attract far more motorists to view the poster she graciously holds than would uncouth types bawling insults while arrayed in unkempt denim genes, and looking as if they've been pulled through a hedge backwards! Those Protestors in Southern France were a mixed breed, yet they were as groomed as was their dress, and we here in the UK could learn much from them. And, what is more: courtesy attracts courtesy, and the police were most gracious to us.

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Yes & Senior Citizens* Should Make The Most Of Their Standing, Even If Seated!

A seat was kindly given to me directly in front of the police, at the entrance in to the arena. One hoped to trouble the consciences of any going in to watch this bloody and barbaric spectacle. It's surprising what a collar can do!

Incidentally, it is gratifying to know that in Spain, the city fathers of Barcelona have come down against the spectacle of bull fighting! Let's highly commend them for the same. Appalling indeed that a Spanish archbishop has been an avid supporter of this grotesque sport for many years. The late Hans Fishinger - to his dying day - made a constant one man stand against the appalling example of several priests within the

Catholic Church of which he was a practising member. 'May his efforts never have been in vain!' Thankfully I was introduced to one of his great admirers while outside the Aries bullring: the militant David Whiting whose late mother (Lady Dowding) brought into being: BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY.

I tell you this: with people such as Hans Fishinger and Lady Dowding looking down upon us from the battlements of Glory, we are assured of tremendous victory. Yes, and let us thank God for living saints. I think of 84-year-old Joan Court's recent 48 hour hunger strike in opposition to a proposed new vivisection complex in Oxford. Yes, and I'm sure we're all grateful to a top heart specialist whose exposed the fallacy of Vivisection. I refer to respected trauma surgeon Jerry Vlasak. If the Home Secretary forbids him future entry to the UK- or indeed, calls the army in against us - he'll surely encounter more than he bargains for. He grossly underestimates the power and vigilance of animal activists who are the most compassionate and caring people in the whole world.

To Keep Our Sanity We Must Choose A Worthy Radio Station!

Each of us has a choice to either tune in to Radio P or else - God forbid! - Radio N. I need hardly remind you that P means, positive and that N means negative! But always be aware that at the least expected time, while tuned in to Radio Positive that you do not allow Radio Negative to butt in and distort your frequency;

Interpret life positively. See the glass as half full rather than half empty. Observe the doughnut rather than the hole! Remember that interpretations are usually greater than facts. Visualise the enemy as shrinking fast. See each apparent rejection as a step nearer an acceptance. Interpret each previously viewed problem as a challenge. Yes - and more difficult! - see the best in the worst folk or situations. For what you look for you'll find; and what you focus on usually gets clearer and larger. Do not look so much on the visible army of opponents but rather upon the far larger invisible army of the saints: (read 2 Kings 6: 15-17)

This way, you can take a heroic stand even by yourself. But be vigilant against Radio N trying to distort the programme by butting in. Tune him out straightaway and your mental joy and equilibrium will be restored. Do not give thought to past 'assumed' failings. You didn't have the foresight before that you did afterwards; so stop screwing yourself up! This day is the first in the rest of your life, so tear off yesterday's date from the calendar block, screw it up and start today with a smile upon your lips and gratitude within your heart. Do not over tax yourself- remember the egg timer that lets only one grain or two go through its neck at a time. Remember Aesop's fable of the tortoise and the hare! And last but not least – considering what follows! – be like St Paul and: “Learn to suffer fools gladly”

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As Blairites Oppose Anti-Vivisectionists They Finance Pagans, Witches & Druids.

Wonders never cease! While this absurd and crooked government dishonours all its past vows to help animals -.and now threatens to call in the army to combat animal activism at Oxford's proposed vivisection complex - it dishes out one million pound a year, of tax payers money, to support way-out weirdo's. The Mail On Sunday says: 'Home Office officials have met leaders of minority religions to discuss their demands that include teaching school children about their rituals. This faith communities unit set up last year by David Blunkett employs no less than fourteen full-time civil servants'

What a strange kind of Nanny State bloody minded Blairism is creating! It offers financial support to macabre projects such as HLS; while it clamps down on our choice of herbal and mineral supplements. Such an outwardly 'apparent' Nanny is surely nothing less than an ogre of a witch! She is more seductive than any hag who offered Snow White a poisoned apple. She claims to have the welfare of the populace at heart, while she encourages nuclear dumping and a whole host of other carcinogenic projects. Thank God that, at last, the eyes of the public are beginning to open! Rejoice; for Tony Blair's distorted priorities are, surely, as doomed as is top vivisectionist Colin Blakemore's!

‘Hear this, the just judgement of the skies:
Those who distort truth become the dupe of lies.
For those who shall be cheated to the last,
Delusions, strong as hell, will hold them fast’

- William Cowper

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