

EDITORIAL

Creator Spirit, come! Reveal to us the Peaceable Kingdom. We wish at last to enter.

Between the Species is conceived as a venture in the tradition of Saint Francis and Albert Schweitzer. The editors intend to make the journal a medium for inter-species dialogue on the theme of the absolute reconciliation of humans and nature. We believe that the whole of the universe is moving toward harmony, or can be so led, and that humans can find their place in nature and be simply at home. Suspecting that our fears are illusions arising from the refusal of freedom, we want to move to meet that which is moving to meet us.

The Laboratory of the Peaceable Kingdom, sponsoring body of Between the Species, has as its purpose to explore philosophically, scientifically, and ethically--and to extend educationally and practically--the full extent of the identity of animals and humans. The Laboratory exists to facilitate the widening of the Community of Life, to apply and elaborate Schweitzer's principle of Reverence for Life, and to assist in the Pacification of Nature (Herbert Marcuse's concept)--helping to realize Cosmic Consciousness through the awakening of those parts of ethical mind still asleep in nature and humans. The Laboratory of the Peaceable Kingdom seeks to establish, in the heart of reason, the idea of the ethical equivalence of humans and animals as a first principle of ethical thought and action.

In the first instance, and not later to be given up, we agree to Erik Erikson's definition of the human as all that may come within the sights of a weapon. At the moment that the possibility of killing arises, the human is constituted and the ban on killing is in effect. Beyond this, the future is made up of the creative alternatives, and humankind is the name of the community that then ensues. We expect that the limits of this community are co-extensive with the range of subjective forms that, although it is their birthright and may sometimes be their happy fate to persist joyously, live in danger of suffering and death. Nature, which includes humans (commonly understood), is a world of differences, but the charter of that world is as a true community, and the name of this community is Humankind.

The editors of Between the Species share many of the concerns of conservation organizations, anti-vivisectionist groups, and societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals. Our goal of wider community makes the ideal of world cultural, political, and economic order part of our ideal, and so we seek an internationalism subject to Thoreau's principle that in wildness is the preservation of the world. Internationalism, however, will not be a first concern of this journal, although the editors do have in mind the opinion of Schweitzer that ours has been an age of barbaric cruelty of human to human, and that the way back to civilization is through the integration of the principle of Reverence for Life.

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Seeing animals as human, and humans (Homo sapiens) as animals, the editors take a lively interest in the legitimate concerns of humans. An end to pollution of the environment of humankind is one of these legitimate concerns (not to overshadow our concern about peace, economic abundance, housing, and equality and excellence among humans). But ecology, in our view, is an altruistic discipline having as its goal an enlargement of the effective domain of Love. Ecology most emphatically is not only the discipline of the survival of Homo sapiens. We may say instead that ecology has to do with the survival of Nature.

We hope to bring Between the Species out quarterly. The journal will contain articles, reviews, and letters discussing, elaborating, and criticizing the formulations we have just given. There will be poems and stories. This is a journal of ethology, philosophical anthropology, and cosmic ethics. We will be instructed, but we will not give up our vision.

The editors invite poets, scientists, philosophers, and scholars and writers of all types to contribute short articles, poems, stories, letters, and reviews for publication in Between the Species. We hope to find readers who will passionately wish us well.

INVOCATION

Oh great God Pan, you who approach in nightmare, in the solitary vice, in the solitude of wilderness, suddenly at noon atop a rock in the bubbling stream, in lust and panic flight, in madness, reentering our awareness as we remember you at Findhorn, in the novels of Hamsun, the films of Weir, but finding your own way, and then if, in further remembrance, we stay instead, perhaps, communal consciousness growing, bring your nymphs and deer, bless this work.

We need you, and the other Gods, jealous Jehovah and Allah, who would have no other Gods before them, among you. But alienated from both Gods and the natural world, we need especially you and he of the shadows, Dionysius, along with Kuksu first in this place, Coyote and his entourage, and through you those others, above as below, whom we no longer know but again would live among.

Wandering Owl