

Goat Song (3/19/2013)

Rediscovering Pastoral Life

Different from hunter gathering

To understand life, you can follow other living beings and discover value in your own life.

1. Is our historical relationship with animals changed by the way we keep animals today?
 - Art in things made from animal products--cheese, milk, etc.
 - Mastery of anything can be considered an art, but GS romanticized the process.
 - Historically, the farming process is very difficult.
 - Is food ever art?
 - You can't understand pastoral/farming culture unless you have had to live that lifestyle.
 - Are we losing some sort of value by pasteurizing dairy products?
 - By virtue of the process, we lose proteins and other good stuff, but we also lose a lot of toxins as well. Pasteurization = good if we want a safe, large supply of milk.
 - On the other hand, during the industrial revolution we began distributing milk to cities. In transit, bacteria would grow in the milk and make it unsafe for consumption. Over time, all raw milk came to be viewed as dangerous. The pasteurization destroys vitamins, proteins, etc. which must then be reinjected into the milk. Pasteurized milk is not as good for you as we think it is. While we can't return to the previous state of keeping and milking our own livestock, we can increase dairy farm regulations to make this organic milk less dangerous.
 - A little bacteria never hurt anyone. There has to be a lot, the problem is overgrowth of bacteria.
 - The only alternative to pasteurization is an alternative that is just as safe as pasteurization.
- Can profit driven livestock also be a source of joy? Is our connection to land the chief way of finding meaning in life?
 - Not so much that baling hay is enjoyable, just that some activities are therapeutic.
 - You can find satisfaction in anything if you make it your hobby.
- Can true wisdom only be found from hard work?
 - Everyday things that seem more exciting with the skill of the writer.
 - Bible Imagery
 - Bible imagery, redemption, tied up in pastoral society.
 - Romanticized is not the right word for what is happening here.
- What are our responsibilities to animals? To each other? Are we obligated to share information with each other?
 - Sharing important because when we share information it advances society.
 - Breeding industry is tied to fees. Benefits everyone.
- Word formation (where do these words come from?)

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- Parasites and animal health hierarchy.
 - Animals evolve together and form mutualistic relationships.
 - “The wildlife of our bodies” - WORMS.
 - There’s a link to this on the “Books for the Blog” page, but here’s another link to Rob Dunn’s book:
<http://www.amazon.com/Wild-Life-Our-Bodies-Predators/dp/006180648X>
 - Why we can eat chocolate - the reason chocolate is toxic to some animals is because they eat more than we would eat. For instance, if your 40lb dog eats a chocolate cake, it’s a much larger dose than it would be for us. We would need to eat two boxes of bakers chocolate for it to kill us.
- Nature vs Nurture
- How do people get milk from animals? Is it ethical?
 - Baby goats (kids) taken from their mothers milk.
 - More ethical to take them right away before they get attached.
 - Bottle fed animals are more attached to humans.
- Would you feel comfortable drinking raw milk?
- It was once the bull was used for trade that the inequality between rich and poor began to grow across the planet. “Before money talked, it walked.” In short, the big picture is that “the mother of our culture is agriculture; all other arts sprang from it.” **Is to forget this art of our food to lose part of our culture and possibly our happiness?**
 - Cow hormones.
 - Can we just cook the uncleanness away? Could this produce food of the same quality?
 - Toxic milk cartons