



Faith based Perspectives on Animal Welfare

Joyce D'Silva

Compassion in World Farming International



ANIMAL WELFARE IN WORLD RELIGION

Teaching and Practice



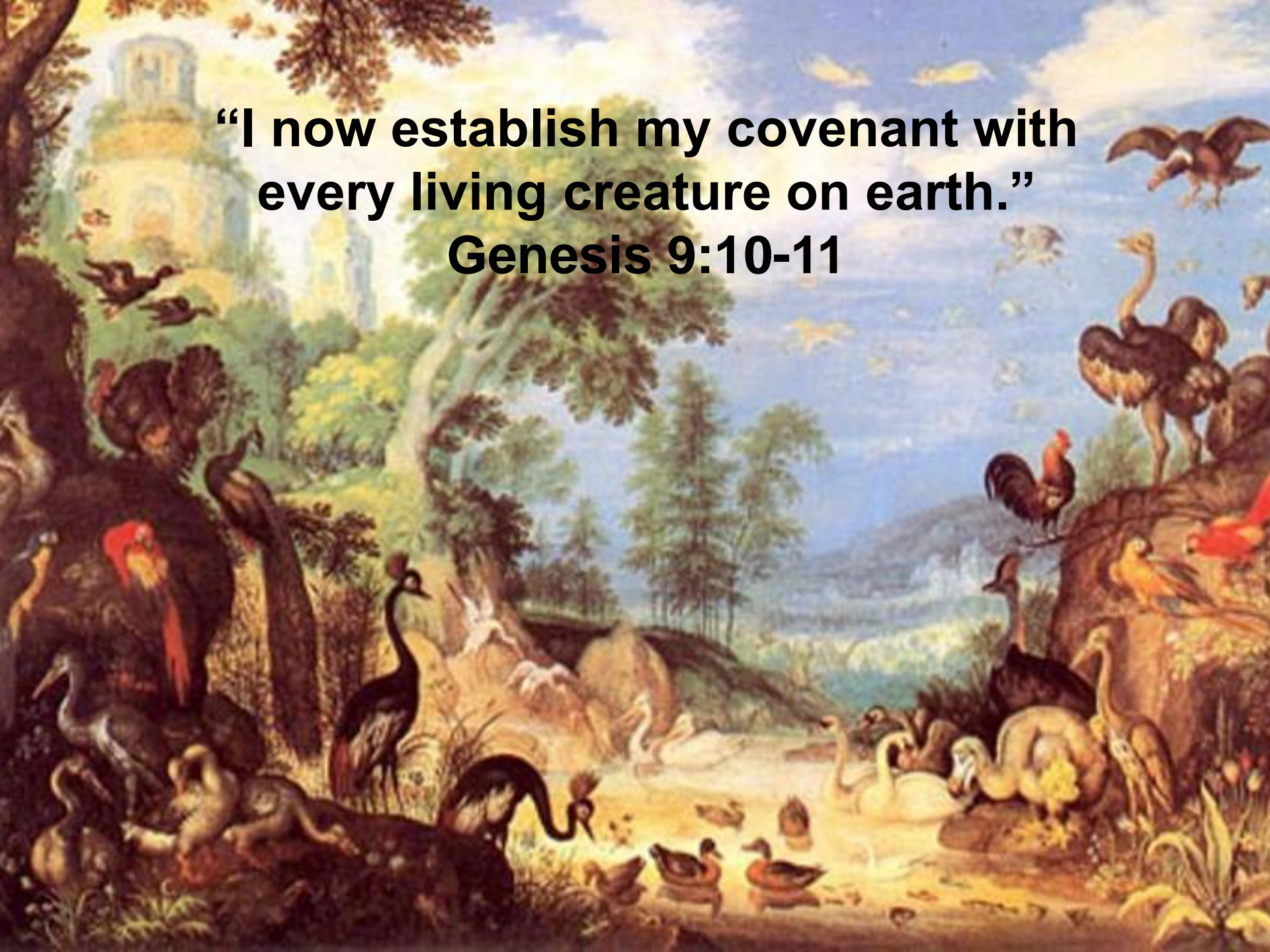
Joyce D'Silva

earthscan
from Routledge



And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food” Genesis 1:29

**“I now establish my covenant with every living creature on earth.”
Genesis 9:10-11**





“Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything.”
Genesis 9:3



Sacrifice common
in Old Testament
times





A fundamental Jewish teaching is that human beings must avoid “tza’ar ba-alei chayim” – causing pain to any living creature.



“I believe that truly religious Jews (and indeed all people of moral sensibility) should avoid animal products as much as possible”
Rabbi David Rosen
2021



When do they have a day of rest?

Christianity: “not one of them
is forgotten in god’s sight.”
Luke 12:6





Christianity:

Jesus is seen as the Paschal lamb (“Agnus Dei”), the final sacrifice



"According to the Divine ordinance, the life of animals and plants is preserved not for themselves but for man."
St Thomas Aquinas (1225 – 1274)

Saint Isaac the Syrian:
“a heart on fire
for the whole
of creation, for
humanity, for
the birds, for
the animals...”





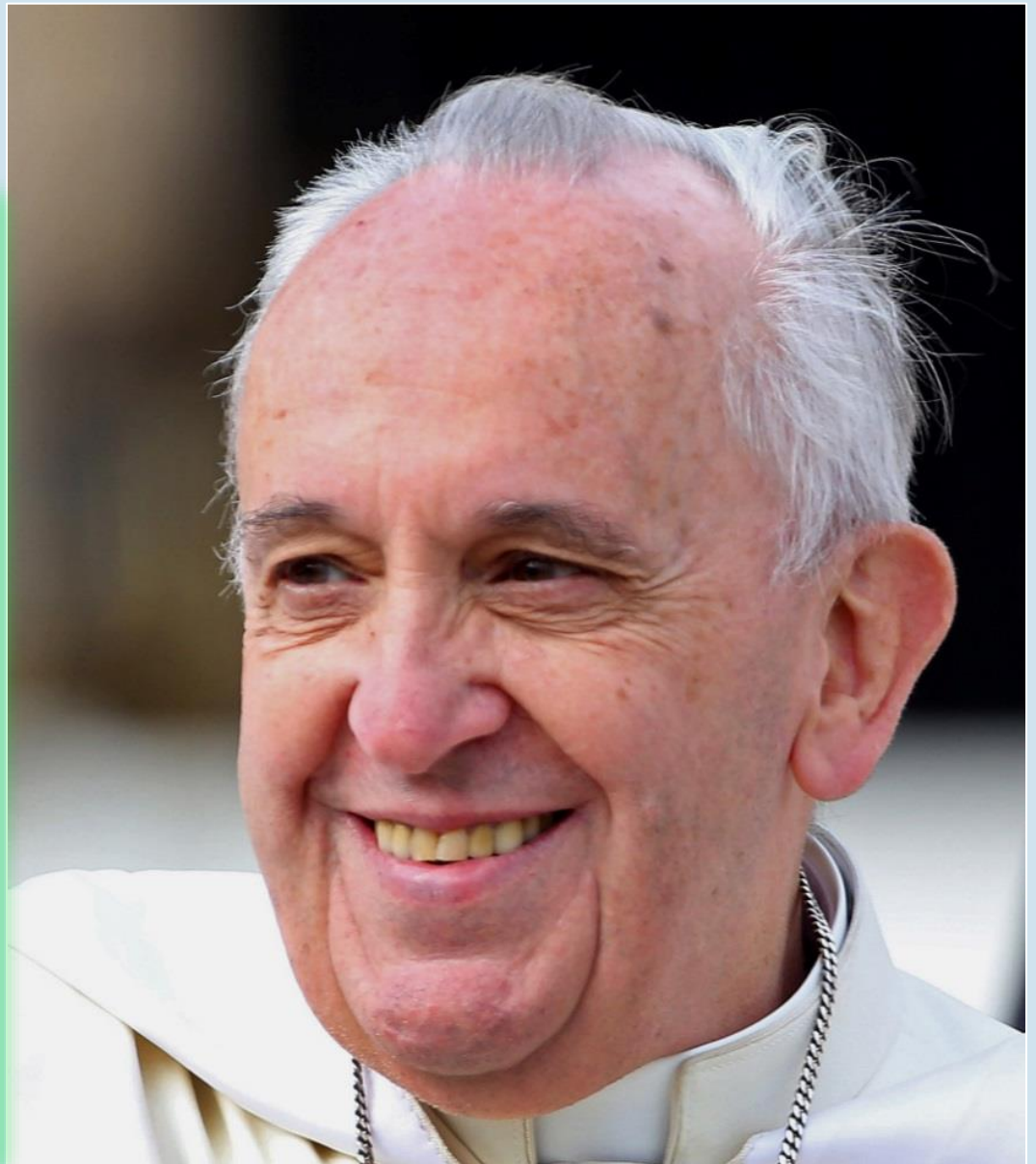
“Not to hurt our humble brethren is our first duty to them; but...we have a higher mission. God wishes that we should help them whenever they require it.” St Francis of Assisi, (c1181-1226).



“the compassion of the Lord extends to every living creature” Pope St John Paul II (1978-2005)

Pope Francis 1:
“Man must
therefore respect
the particular
goodness of every
creature..”

Encyclical
Laudato Si' 2015





Cattle farming in Brazil



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Dairy farm, Germany 2012



Islam: Allah created and cares for all creatures



“There is no creature on the earth or bird that flies with its wings, except that they are communities like you...

Then unto their Lord they will be gathered.”

Qur'an 6:38



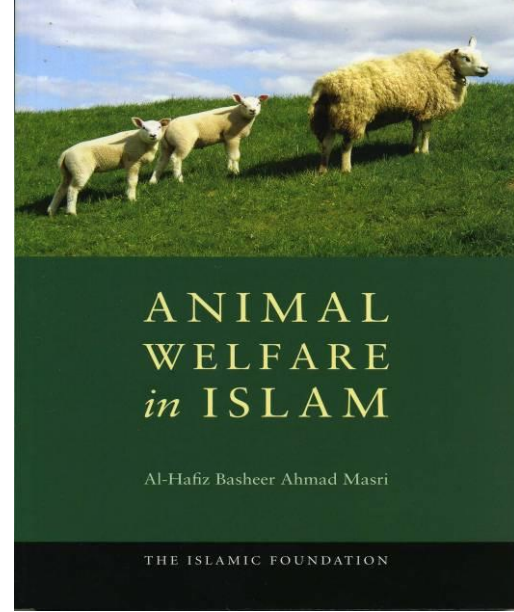
**Muslims sacrifice at
end of Hajj pilgrimage
to Mecca**



Muhammad: “Don’t you fear God with regard to this animal, whom God has given to you? For the camel complained to me that you starve him and work him endlessly.”



“And the grazing livestock He has created for you...and from them you eat” (Qur’an 16:5).



Al Hafiz B A Masri:

“How right is it to deny these creatures of God their natural instincts so that we may eat the end produce?”





In Islam, food should be halal (permitted), but also Tayyib, (wholesome, good). Can factory-farmed meat/eggs be tayyib?



Indus Valley sacrifice, origins of Hinduism



अहिंसा

Ahimsa. “Those noble souls who practice meditation and other yogic ways, who are ever careful about all beings, who protect all animals, are the ones who are actually serious about spiritual practices”
(Atharva Veda 19.48.5)






The same
reality in all
beings...

Bhagavad Gita



Swami Vivekananda: “the difference (between humans and animals) is only in manifestation..” (1897)

M. K. Gandhi



**"The greatness of a nation
and its moral progress
can be judged by the way
its animals are treated."**

Ganesha, popular
elephant-headed
Hindu god





Temple elephant chained by the leg

www.jasongilchrist.co.uk



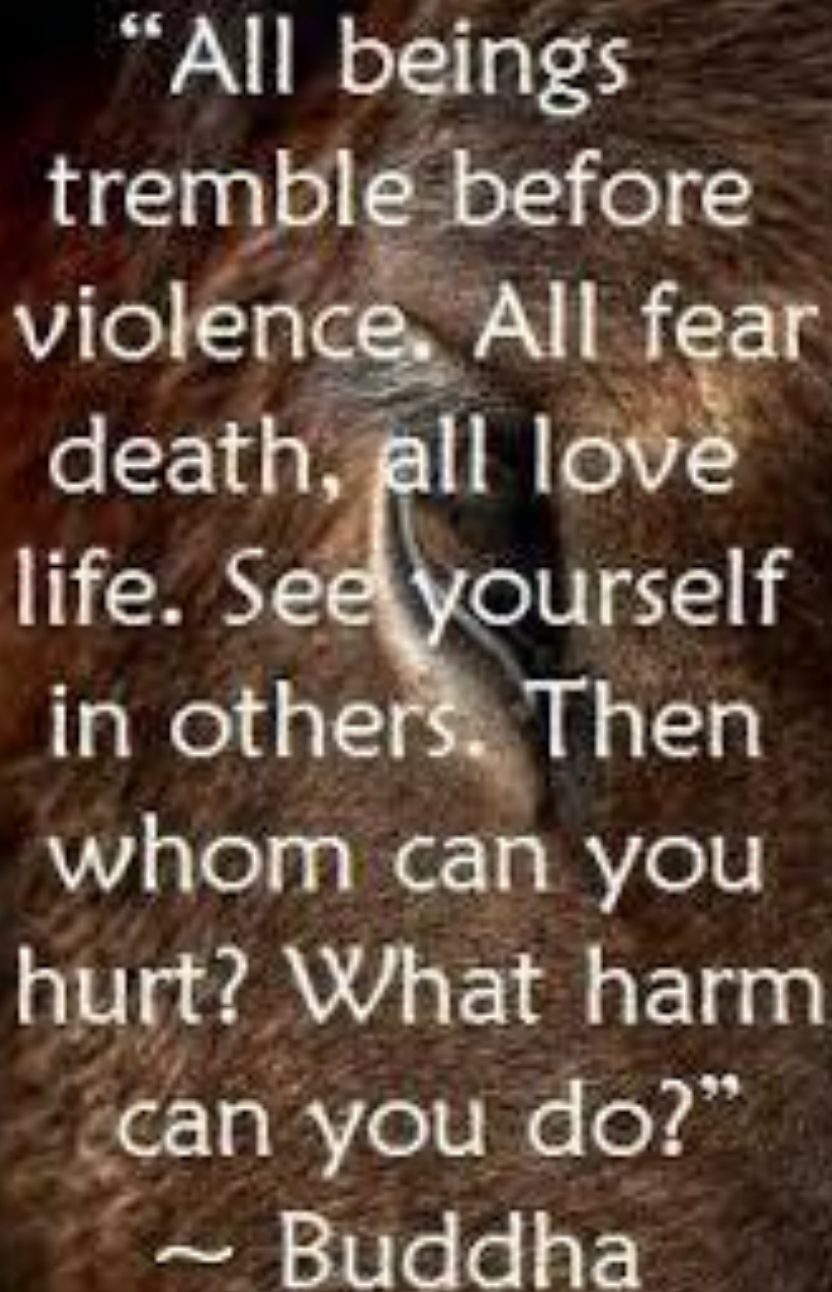
Krishna, god and cowherder



Dairy Farm India
c. FIAPO



Buddhists see animals as sentient beings



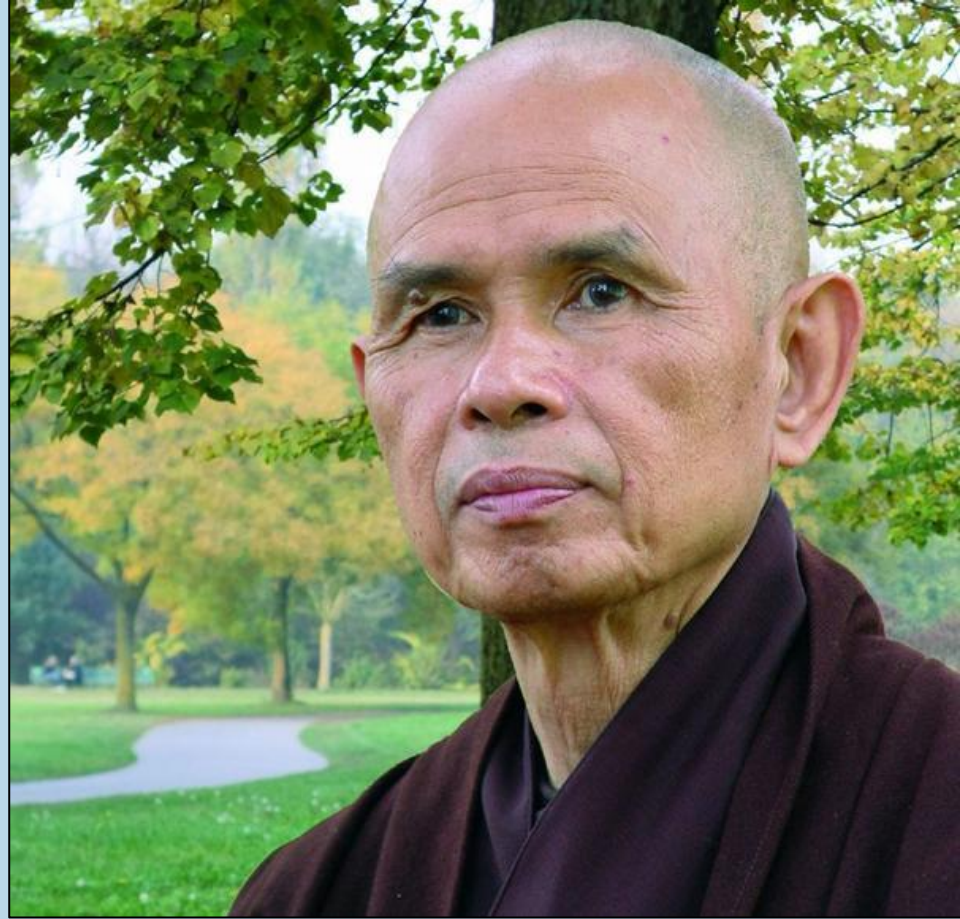
“All beings
tremble before
violence. All fear
death, all love
life. See yourself
in others. Then
whom can you
hurt? What harm
can you do?”
~ Buddha

One of Buddha's sayings
in the Dhammapada



“May all beings everywhere be happy. May they be healthy. May they be at peace. May they be free.”

Karaniya Metta Sutta



“By eating meat, we share the responsibility of climate change, the destruction of our forests, and the poisoning of our air and water. The simple act of becoming a vegetarian will make a difference in the health of our planet”

Thich Nhat Hanh:
“The World We Have: A Buddhist Approach to Peace and Ecology”



Cock-fighting, the national sport of Buddhist Thailand



Sikhism: “The merit of pilgrimages to the sixty-eight holy places, and that of other virtues besides, do not equal having compassion for other living beings” (Guru Granth Sahib)