

I am choked with urgency and moral outrage as I picture the utmost devastation as you hear your own brother's piercing shriek, while you fearfully await a death sentence for a crime you never committed. An inhumane and cruel worker dressed in a pale coat draped in cerise red blood strangles your brother (who lets loose one final, desperate bark as the optimistic light in his eyes fades into a dark chasm of misery) indifferently and hangs him on a disgusting line of rotting carcasses. They are treated as nothing more than mere commodities, tradeable items with no emotions, rather than sentient beings with their own interests and desires. These putrid slaughterhouses are an unjust stain on our society, as these beautiful creatures are being subjected to human exploitation of their own resources. And this problem extends even further than animal cruelty - it ruins our limited water sources and it can easily spread diseases. It is a clear clarion call to turn to a new solution: veganism.

All animals experience complex cognitive processes - they feel the same hurt and suffering as we do when they are subject to a cruel killing. For example, pigs are heavily energetic creatures socialising and playing with others. How do you think it would feel to see their friends ripped away from them forever and them facing the same horrible fate. Also Professor John Webster of the University of Bristol found that, like humans, sheep visibly express emotions such as depression when their friends are slaughtered as they build friendships and stick up for one another in fights. Imagine the loss of the innocent creatures as they lose mental optimism, and face bouts of depression as they are crammed in a filthy, fly-covered enclosure cramped for air. These intellectual creatures are being exploited for human greed and folly. It is our ethical duty to protect these sentient creatures from the hellholes of despair.

Slaughterhouses dump blood and animal waste into our waterways, and toxicates it with high levels of phosphorus and nitrogen. Imagine a saline lake englazed with filthy layers of cerise pink, staining what once was a scenic, bluish wonderland. And you know from the toxic smell swarming over the lake, the lake has been contaminated by callous slaughterhouses. This contributes to toxic algae outbreaks and dead zones which all threaten our drinking water. Humans rely on water for nearly everything they do, and by the pitiless murdering of animals, we are slowly strangling ourselves. In 2019 alone, slaughterhouses released more than 28 million pounds of nitrogen and phosphorus directly into the nation's rivers and streams, and the number is not getting smaller as we try to satisfy the demand for meat.

When animals are being subjected to torturous conditions, humans take a hit too. The working conditions in slaughterhouses are extremely poor, and it is likely for a worker to get contaminated with any zoonotic disease. Also, consumers can also be infected with disease if they eat the meat contaminated with a disease. These zoonotic diseases can be extremely dangerous for humans. For example, rabies which spreads by animal saliva is a near fatal and painful animal disease with no cure. Also, salmonellosis which spreads by digestion of animal faeces can inflict you with large periods of diarrhoea, fatigue and fever. These painful diseases cause 2.7 million humans to die every year.

But there's an answer to these detrimental problems : veganism. By choosing to live a vegan lifestyle, we can drastically reduce our impact on animals and the environment. Veganism is not only a compassionate choice but one that will make our world take a turn for the better. We can save our world and our home if make this crucial decision - go vegan.