

Leviathan: An Ethical Imperative

Few issues in this country cross political and class boundaries to receive overwhelming consensus, capturing hearts and minds across the board. The protection of the world's whales has done that.

Few actions taken by our government have elicited overwhelming dissent throughout the populace. The administration's support of an International Whaling Commission draft agreement to legalize commercial whaling again has done just that. Succumbing, to both external and internal demands, President Obama is on the verge of breaking a promise to support the worldwide moratorium on whaling. This has brought criticism from people all over the country and from all walks of life.

Why is this so? The answers are myriad, but the core reasons are simple. We have found, after centuries of slaughtering the world's whales and driving them nearly to extinction, that these creatures are not only the key to a healthy ocean, but the key to our humanity: the measure of how we perceive and interact compassionately with the natural world. We have found that whales are not just creatures to perceive as "stocks" and populations to be controlled and "managed" for our use, but a highly intelligent, sentient race that has lived harmoniously within their world for eons. They do, if you pay attention, show us the way to be on this spinning gem that we live on. They have lived within their environment and within the Laws of Ecology for the entirety of their existence, something that we, as the apex land animal, have not as yet learned to do.

The ethical imperative of saving the whales is undeniable and should not be lost in the science of species management; should not be pandered by a government ready to sell out to greedy poachers, and should not be gambled in the game where the tradition card is played to trump a losing hand. No matter how healthy a small group of scientists finds a whale population, the question is this: healthy compared to what? If we are talking about historic health, we all know that their current populations are miniscule compared to the pre 18th-century oceans. Can the whales survive given their numbers and the coming changes to their food sources and habitats? Can science in any way justify the killing of whales now and in the future? Of course not!

Are we as a nation inclined to compromise with poachers and terrorists? No! So why are we giving in to the demands of three nations who have thumbed their collective noses at the moratorium on whaling for 25 years and have poached whales that should have the chance to recover from centuries of being terrorized at our hands?

Are the demands of nations that claim it is their traditional "right" to murder whales more important than the continued existence of a species that is struggling to survive; whose children are emaciated and growing fewer by the year? If tradition does not serve the earth, then it is no longer viable. It makes no sense.

It is time to stand our ground and realize our right as citizens of a country that claims the democratic process works. It is time to recognize our connection to the earth and take responsibility for the lives of our fellow creatures. It is time for us to Save The Whales...Again!

Stand with us to say NO to U.S. support for the resumption of commercial whaling. Join us, your friends and neighbors, at 10 a.m. on May 23rd. We will, along with hundreds of others in coastal communities throughout the state, along with city councils, county supervisors, and state and federal elected officials representing millions, shout a unanimous NO WAY OBAMA, and he will hear us. This is your chance to be a part of it. This is your chance to make a difference. Take it.

YOU HAVE A VOICE! YOU HAVE A CHOICE! See you there

Mandy Davis – Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. Los Osos, California

For information on the event nearest you go to www.wanconservancy.org

Leviathan

Up from the deep
massive, sleek
moving in undulating patterns
bespeaking eons
of evolution to perfection
for fluid sinuous
Being
in a world vast and echoing

Through silver-blue
light offerings
she rises
meeting waves cresting
wind driving white horses
cloud spirits convening
in a rush to return
being called home

The lonely heart beats
calling to her side
Others
a song long remembered
reverberates
through viscous blue walls
eating the miles
to the ends of the earth

A chant of the ages
tribal and rich
telling stories
ancestral memories passed
of a people
a time

when the oceans sang
sweet and abundant

The tribe has dispersed
spirits are broken
the waters were red
filled with screams
and dying songs
falling on deaf ears
of a murderous
unknowing invader

She sings to her family
songs of redemption
calls to the oceans
carry her home
fulfilling
a life's imperative
a species swan song
forgiveness in death

They are but a whisper
in a world going silent
a vast beauty
desecrated
raped and diminished
an ageless visage
still of unimaginable beauty
fading into the distance

Must you go?

