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## The Animal Kingdom and the Word of God

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### Abstract

The aim of our study is to try deeping deep into the understanding of the importance of the Animal Kingdom as well as its impact daily lives first spiritually then materially. The emphasis is made on a biblical appraisal of the phenomenon. To achieve this goal, the methodology used is based on critical littérature review, phenomenology and Biblical methodology which is a method that seeks to shed light upon the historical processes which give rise to the biblical texts. It proceeds from textual criticism to redaction criticism, operating with the help of scientific criteria. The objective of our study is to answer a number of questions useful to shed more light on the rationale and indispensable management of the wildlife (fauna) and ultimately to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. The interest of this work is spiritual, philosophical and social. The results of our study show that Man has everything to learn from the nature in general and animals in particular from the lion's strenght of character, to the emotions control of the cold-blooded snake or again the hardworking small ant, etc. Wisdom is found in living creatures of God as there are part and parcel of the Divine Creator.

**Keywords:** Yahweh, Animals, Ground, Humanity, Bible, Redemption

### 1. Introduction

Animals comes from what is animated, that is actively alive, having reproductive organs, capable of moving, thinking, reacting, posing acts and influence their environment. As such we can identify various types of animals namely human beings (« civilized animals ») as a form of animal and wild animals or fauna. Wild animals or beast is a topic of interest considering its particularities and interactions with Man and his environment.

According to the word of God especially in the book of Genesis 1:20-25, animals are an important part of creation as companion to human beings. They are also a symbol of God's sovereignty and greatness. As science will testify, they are useful in various ways such as keeping environment, aiding in human health, and scientific advancements, maintain ecosystems, providing food and resources, and necessary in medical research.

In the book of Gen. 1 Verses 26 to 31, God give dominion over animals to Man. This implies catering for them. Teaching and learning from them for the glory of God and subsequently that of humanity. Ghandi stipulated that the quality of man can be seen in the way animals are treated as he said : « The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated ». On the same line, the philosopher Emmanuel Kant said "He who is cruel to animals becomes hard also in his dealings with men. We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals.». The human-animal relationship was meant to be mutually beneficial relationship between people and animals according to God's plan. We should thereby never forget that as stated by Plato that Man is a tame or civilized animal and we should therefore treat others the way we want them to treat us.

Based on some American statistics, it was revealed that « an estimated 10 million animals die from abuse or cruelty every year in the United States. About 250,000 animals annually are found to be victims of animal hoarding, with most living in unsanitary conditions. Nearly 400,000 dogs that enter shelters across the country are euthanized annually ». In addition, incomplete poaching statistics and facts reveal that there is a real threat to various animal populations worldwide. In that vein, elephants and rhinos are among the most heavily targeted. Over 7,100 rhinos were poached in Africa in a ten-year period, and roughly 20,000 elephants are killed annually. Pangolins are also heavily poached, with over 100,000 individuals illegally traded each

year, making them the most trafficked mammal globally. Hence in the face of such calamity, a number of eyebrows are raised judiciously posing in the background some preoccupations namely :

- How was animal kind created ?
- What are the various categories of animals and their specificities ?
- When was humankind created ?
- Why is fauna determining for humanity ?
- Whose image was fauna made of and what does it imply ?
- What are the capacities endowed to animal kind by God ?
- What does that imply let man have dominion on animals ?
- Are animals still in the image of what God created them ?
- Is Man still having dominion over all the creation especially animals nowadays ?
- What are the perspectives for a better Humanity and animal kind relationship ?
- what lessons can we learn from animal symbolism ?

## 2. How was Animal Kind Created?

The book of Genesis 1:24-31 states that God said, *"I command the earth to give life to all kinds of tame animals, wild animals, and reptiles."* « And that's what happened. God made every one of them. Then he looked at what he had done, and it was good ». From the Holy Scriptures, we can notice a number of factors. The first is that animals were created one day before human beings that is the fifth day. The second one is that the two last creatures that is animals and men were all endowed with the capacity to reproduce, diversity but not to evolve in strange different kinds.

A precision is though important as the scriptures state that in Day 5 God created sea creatures and birds. In Day 6 God created land animals, including livestock, creatures that crawl, and "beasts of the earth". The animal kingdom is marked by variety just as the human own. Though they can interbreed just like humans, they are not supposed to transform in another kind. It appears that and as written in Genesis 2:19, God formed all the animals of the field and birds of the air from the ground. Therefore both humans and animals are described as being formed from the ground. Specifically, Genesis 2:7 states that God formed man from the dust of the ground.

## 3. What are the Various Categories of Animals and their Specificities ?

Going through the Holy Scriptures reveal species of animals according to the environment. Hence we identify air animals, water animals, ground animals, underground animals. In fact, the wide variety of animal species, include mammal, birds, fish, insects, lions, bears, sheep, goats, cattle, horses, donkeys, fish, locusts, bees, etc. The Bible also refers to mythical creatures like the Behemoth and Leviathan.

Concerning the first category which are air animals or birds such as eagles, doves, partridges, quail, owls, vultures, kites, sparrows, swallows, turtle doves. They are characterized by being obviously arial i.e spending most of their times in the air. They have wings enabling them to fly, wing-like forms or structures, lightweight bodies, streamlined shapes, solid chest muscles, performant eye sight, good respiratory system, hollow bones to reduce their weight. This demonstrates that

God gives each the characteristics and capacities necessary to perform his destiny according to the environment he prepared in advance for us. In addition, aerial animals play an extremely indispensable role in the preservation of nature through pollination, seed dispersal, pest control, ecosystems cleaning. Aerial habitats are advantageous to access new food sources, escape land dangers and ability to travel long distances. This inspired science in air transportation, aerial construction, navigation, telecommunications, etc.

Water or aquatic animals unlike ariel ones have as habitat water whether fresh (rivers, lakes or streams) or salty (seas and oceans). They are characterized by specialized respiratory schemes allowing to live under water where oxygen is not in the same form in the air, enabling them to extract dissolved oxygen from the water. Though aerial have streamlined for the air, aquatic are streamlined for swimming. They usually have small or no feet in favour of a tail as swimming tool unlike long legs useful for flying. According to th environment, they are adapted to the osmose or the temperature of their living place. These animals include marine mammal such as shark, whales, dolphins. Contrarily to aerial animals Possessing feathers as protection considered light and adapted to flying as being light and strong at the same time, aquatic animals possess sc ales which are protective structures adapted to marine realities accompanied with streamlined body shapes adapted for smooth swimming and less resistance to water movements. Aquatic animals have adaptations to deal with the pressure changes in deep water, they are also warm-blooded enabling them to maintain a constant body temperature.

Besides aerial and aquatic animals, we have terrestrial animals living predominantly on land or ground and even underground. It is worth noting that some species are semi aerial, semi aquatic or semi terrestrial depending on their predominance, they can be put in one of the categories above mentionned. The terrestrial environment could include forests, deserts, grasslands, savannah, etc. A list of terrestrial animals could include Mammals such as Lions, tigers, dogs, elephants, humans. Penguins (though they also spend time in the ocean, they are considered terrestrial due to their primary lifestyle on land). Reptiles like Snakes, lizards. Insects namely Ants, beetles. Arachnids including spiders or Other invertebrates out of which many crustaceans, mollusks, and worms.

## 4. Animals According to Human Science

Contrarily to the previous classification of animals based on their living environment, human science categorizes animals based on the presence or not of a backbone. In other words in between vertebrate and invertebrates. Vertebrates on one hand include species such as mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians, have à spinal column. Invertebrates, on the other hand which make up the vast majority of animal species, lack a backbone and include a wide array of creatures such as insects, mollusks, and crustaceans.

For other convenient reasons, scientist have put in place a form of taxonomy whereby animals are classified in terms of hierarchy based on criteria such as domain, kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, and species. Hence when referring to animal kingdom or animals that do not produce their own food. This include a kingdom made of all living and extinct animals such as elephants, whales, and even humans. Animals also fall into small entities referred to as orders. These include artiodactyla or toed hoofed animals such as

moose, deer, cattle, pigs, horses, rhinos, camels, or giraffes. Apart from specific physical qualities, animals can also be differentiated according to the way of eating, in this case we have carnivora eating meat, but also some omnivores and herbivores. Animals are also classified by their way of eating such as Rodentia or gnawing mammals including for example beavers, mice, and squirrels. Surprisingly some animals are a mixture such as bats who though being mammals are endowed with the capacity to fly. Another very important specie in which human beings are often classified is that of primates. Primates includes prehensile hands and feet, commonly with opposable thumbs. As examples we can cite gorillas, chimpanzees, and humans. There are also specific big animals such as porpoises, whales and dolphins referred as Cetacea.

There is another trend of dividing animals through their diet. In this case we have the carnivora and the herbivorous. The first family include Felidae (Cats) ; Canidae (Dogs, Wolves, Coyotes, etc.) ; ursidae (Bears) ; mustelidae ; Procyonidae ; Mephitidae ; Herpestidae ; Hyaenidae (Hyenas) ; Viverridae ; Otariidae ; Phocidae ; Odobenidae (Walrus) ; lagomorphs.

### 5. Animals Features

Every animals including humans are characterized by some feature. It will be important to know them in order to grasp the mystery behind nature. The said features also know as animal genus types are indeed subdivisions in smaller groups underlined by similarities. For instance the cat family will be subdivided into several genres such as domestic cats, wild cats such as pantheras, tigers, lions, pumas, leopardus, etc. Over 50 sub species have been numbered by science. Animals are also usually subdivided according to whether they possess Skeleton or not. In that sense we can identify insects, mollusc, starfish and chordates. The animals features are varied and miscellaneous. The whole universe is characterized by the difference in our various features and call for diversity in unity.

### 6. Symbols Attached to Animals in the Spiritual Reign

The Bible mentions a number of animals full with symbols and significance among which we can list sheep, goats, donkeys, lambs, cattle, lions, doves, fishes, insects, camels, horses, apes, baboons, bulls, wolves. What we learn from this category is that these creatures symbolised spiritually following of Christ, life of sacrifices, transportation from the material to the spiritual. It also involve demonstration of power, strenght as well as generosity.

There are also other values portrayed by animals features such as peace, abundance, destruction, hypocrisy, carefulness, wisdom. One of the most representative symbol is power and royalty portrayed by the lion or the sense of love, sacrifice, meekness portrayed by the lamb. The animals are not only natural symbols of wisdom, explaining or being the silent or louder voice of the creator our God but they can at times become mythical.

### 7. Mythical Creatures like the Behemoth and Leviathan

In addition to terrestrial ordinary animal listed and recognized by human science, the bible reveals to us that there are spiritual animals sometimes referred to as monsters or mythical creatures in reason of their non material existence. In the book of 1 Samuel or again in that of Job, Behemoth and Leviathan are described as immense land and

sea creatures respectively. Many other mythical beings appear throughout biblical texts deserving more exploration.

- **Behemoth** : Etimologically it refers to a great beast. It is characterized by its great strenght. In egyptian culture it was interpreted as an hippotamus. In the Bible and specifically in the book of Job 40 : 15-24, it is clearly described putting the following features in highlights namely : mighty, immense strength, impressive physique, grass eater, massive bones as solid as bronze and iron.

If for some the Behemoth clearly referred to a physical entity, nevertheless it will be too pretentious to remove from its character spiritual existence whether in fact or in symbol. Whatever the case it is a clear illustration of the power of the Almighty God.

The key characteristics of Behemoth are described in Job 40:15-24 and encompass as such : strenght obviously, grass eating, muscular, cedar tree, strong and huge bones, living among plants, not afraid of water.

- **Leviathan** : Unlike the Behemoth, it is a marine animal characterized by a wrinkling of its body like a snake. It is a tortuous and sinuous similarly to a dragon. It is a monstrous animal living in deep waters than none can defeat except God in Heaven. Some mythology associates the Leviathan to a sea serpent, a dragon, a snake, a crocodile or a whale. It is said to be a sea serpent demon noted in theology and mythology.

### 8. Animals as Permanent Learning Lessons for Humans

In various religions, philosophies, thoughts and realities, animals are often used as examples of wisdom for human beings. In that vein, we can see in the books of Proverbs and Job that the Most High God took clearly animals as examples. In the first case the Bible says : « Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest ». In the second instance, it is written in a more direct form : « But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? ».

Then to each animal is recognized a specific quality such as diligence for ants, meekness for dove, carefulness for snake, smartness for wolf, kingship for lion, hugeness for whale or elephant, the visionary eagles, the wily fox, the loyal dog, wise owl, the resourceful monkey, etc.

### 9. The Diligent Ant, the Lazy Cicada and the Royal Lion

The idea is to see the hand work of God who desires us to learn from His creation especially animals. In that vein we shall explore the mysteries of the diligence for ants, meekness for dove, carefulness for snake, smartness for wolf, kingship for lion, hugeness for whale or elephant, the visionary eagles, the wily fox, the loyal dog, wise owl, the resourceful monkey, etc.

- **The Diligent Ant** : All over the world the small and insignificant with eyes ant is a source of valuable lessons turning around working hard, saving for the future, specific time for enjoying the day and dynamism. We therefore see that what matters is not the caliber, the height, the weight but even being the smallest we can

succeed and do greatest things by being steady, earnest, and energetic in effort. We are called upon to be devoted and painstaking work and application to accomplish an undertaking. We must be marked by assiduity, integrity, fairness, and justice. The Lord Jesus Christ had the exact characteristics of a diligent ant in his mission to the Heavenly Father in total contradiction to an animal called the cicada

- **The Lazy Cicada :** In the story of the diligent and lazy cicada, it is stated that The cicada spends the summer singing and lounging, while the ant works hard to store food for the winter. When the cold weather arrives, the cicada, hungry and freezing, asks for help from the ant, who gives it some supplies, reminding it of the importance of diligence. Singing and lounging imply here lack of diligence and focus. A life based on merriment, pleasures, vanities, physical pleasures. It is characterized by lack of discipline, no pain endurance, no sense of sacrifice for self and others. The lazy cicada then represent the man who think enjoying his life is acquiring only material wealth for temporal earthly pleasure forgetting that there is a season of harvesting in the spiritual realm.
- **The Lion King :** What makes the Lion special is his fearlessness, his assuring walk, his calm, his calculative nature, the strenght of his character. He is royalty in all his features and children of God are required to walk on the unsteady waters of emotion in trusting instinctly in God. The Proud Lion symbolizes royalty, strength, and authority, appearing as a top predator or a bossy character. Jesus is often referred to as the Lion of the tribe of Judah meaning....

#### 10. The gentle dove and the careful snake

In the book of Matthew 10 : 16, it is written : "be gentle as a dove and wise as a serpent" this is a biblical instruction to approach the world with innocence and shrewdness highlighting 02 types of animals the first being the dove to which is attached gentleness and the second a snake characterized as wise or careful. Understanding the nature of these animals and their features can help us to unravels the mystery behind this Bible extract.

A dove is defined as a very small birds with small head, short legs, and a cooing voice, feeding on seeds or fruit. It is either white or grey bird, often used as a symbol of peace. A pure white member of this species is usually used as a symbol of innocence, gentleness, tenderness, and peace. In many traditions, they represent purity and spiritual guidance. The symbol of a dove with an olive branch as in Noah's ark has been accepted in many religions and places as a one of love and peace.

Coming from the word « crawl », the snake is an animal whose only name attract fear among men and other creatures, mostly known for its venomous and deadly attitude. Spiritually however, it is cited as a wise creature of God for many reasons such as limbless, elongated bodies, scales, no external ears or eyelids, a flexible jaw for swallowing large prey, forked tongue, cold-blooded, flexible backbone. It a symbol of physical flexibility. As wise as a snake is all about not about being evil, but exercising discernment, understanding your environment, making wise, calculated decisions without being naive or aggressive. Being subtle. Serpents/snakes rarely hunt/seek for a meal. They wait for their prey to come to them, we should not be eager for things

of the world but learn to be patient and waiting on God. We should learn to lay low, to be sensitive to our environment's opportunities. Discretion, cautiousness and carefulness are the hallmark of snakes.

#### 11. The wily fox and the loyal dog

The fox is usually related with a cunning or clever attitude, as an animal deceitful, skilled at gaining an advantage, especially deceitfully. In the Bible, the term wily fox appears in Luke 13 :32 and Song of Solomon 2 : 15. In the first verse Herod is characterized by Jesus Christ as a fox due to his deceptive nature and political maneuvering skills while in the second verse, little foxes refer to problems, complex situations, difficulties that can disturb or destroy either a project, relationship or good harvest. Foxes are also physical, emotional, spiritual and mental distractions that can destroy our good relationships both with Man and God. Thereby leading to destruction and loss.

The loyal dog is all about values such as steadfast loyalty, companionship, empathy, partnership, fearless domestication. The dog is as such recognized for being faithful to his master, lord, to a particular cause, or to a specific person. It is always giving or showing firm and constant support or allegiance to a person. It is not changing in his friendship. It adheres to whatever it owes allegiance. Faithfulness, dedication, honesty and trust are its motto.

#### 12. The wise owl and the resourceful monkey

If in some culture, the owl is feared creature because of its nocturnal side added to its physical features characterized by large eyes, facial disc, hooked beak and loud hooting. It should be underlined that at the spiritual level, this animal is revered for its wisdom, practicality, seriousness, quiet observation and deep knowledge. Teaching us to go beyond outside beauty and go deeper in the inner qualities of beings. Owls are associated not only with wisdom, knowledge, change, transformation, intuitive development, and trusting the mystery. They are tied to the spiritual symbolism of "death" which brings about new beginnings.

In the Bible, owls are used as symbols of torment, loneliness, desolation, mourning, and judgment. Owls in the Bible are classified as unclean animals (Leviticus 11:16-17; Deuteronomy 14:16). They represent uncleanness as well as mourning. They are in all cases as resourceful as the animal called monkey.

In fact the monkey is a sign of a resourceful animal due to its agility, social character, playful and its energetic behaviour. That animal is one that resemble the most to human beings. They are physically characterized by features such a four limbs of five fingers, a narrow whest, a hairy body, bare skin on the face, thumbs, nails, etc. Some may ask whether the resemblance in between monkey and man is a pure matter of coïncidence or man is just the sum of all the creation ?

#### 13. The sheep and the goats

Sheep and goats are common features in the Bible symbolizing strong representations of the Kingdom of God. On one side sheep physically characterized by whiteness, ruminant mammals, hairy, ungulates, wide field of vision and good sense of smell, are seen through the scriptures as those who care for the others. In the book of Matthew 25:31-46, « Jesus uses the example of a shepherd separating his flock to teach about final judgment. The sheep are those who cared for the hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, sick, and imprisoned,

and are rewarded with eternal life ». In broader symbolism, Sheep are depicted as followers who trust and depend on their shepherd, representing the faithful who follow God. As such, sheep are those in line with God's will to help others as a direct act of service to God. A life of true faith must include tangible acts of love and kindness to the needy.

Goats instead are the symbol of disobedience, they represent the unrighteous, the wicked who demonstrate evil through lack of concern to God and others. They have no compassion, they are unfaithful and unkind. The goats are those who neglected to help the needy and are punished. Hence, the distinction is not a social based own but instead the showing of compassion or not to others. Goats are also characterized as being more independent, unpredictable, and rebellious, defiant s towards the Almighty God.

#### **14. The Eagle and the crow in the Bible**

In the Bible, the Eagle represents strength, power, vigor, great vision, endurance, supremacy, sovereignty and protective care of God. It is also the figure for spiritual vigor that rises above life challenges what matters the height. It is a particular animal with great features and qualities that made it to be known as the king of birds due to its combination of impressive physical traits, hunting prowess, powerful build, exceptional eyesight, and strong wings for fast and agile flight, making it an apex predator. Culturally, it is also viewed as a metaphor of freedom, power, and majesty.

Crows or ravens spiritually refer to divine judgment and provisions in the sense that they are associated with desolation somehow due to their lack of generosity. On the other side of the coin God shows that he is above logic and human impossibility by using it as his signs of provision to his prophet and loved ones. This world is like a raven but God can provide for us even in wilderness. Just like the famous illustration when ravens fed the prophet Elijah, showing God's care even for "unclean" creatures. Additionally, the crow in Noah's story symbolizes a rejection of returning to God.

#### **15. The Camel and the Rabbit in the Bible**

In the Bible and precisely in the Old testament, the Camel is used to represent endurance and temperance, this is due to his exceptional ability to go long periods without water. It is also regarded because of that as a symbol of royalty. What makes the Camel so particular in creation is due to its specific features namely long eye lashes to protect them against sand, a hump that can store water for long, long neck to breathe better in the desert, large padded feet adapted to the hot sandy areas.

In many mythologies, religions and cultures, Camel is a great spiritual symbol representing values such as patience, endurance, resilience, persevere through difficult journeys and challenges. It also symbolizes strength, adaptability, staying focused on long-term goals, the tension between material wealth and spiritual riches. It is an invitation to accept difficulties of lives while staying focus on spiritual devotion. There is therefore absolute necessity to develop ability to survive in harsh environments. The Camel is indeed a powerful symbol of resourcefulness and fortitude.

Rabbits are known for their speed, fertility, sense of intuition and adaptability. Hence spiritually they refer to fertility, abundance, fresh beginnings, change, trust. The Bible refers to

rabbits as a symbol of predominance of heavenly wisdom upon earthly knowledge. Proverbs 30:26 mentions rabbits or hares as a symbol of a "weak people" physically but wise spiritually because they have "heavenly wisdom" seeking refuge in the "Rock of Israel," which is a metaphor for God.

#### **16. The smart vultures**

The fox is undoubtedly recognized as an intelligent and strategic mastermind. Its skills and features comprise keen senses, enhanced night vision, and walking on their toes. They have remarkable skills such as hunting skills through excellent hearing, night vision, and a strong sense of smell. They are highly adaptable, fast, and agile, using their bushy tails for balance and communication.

In mythology and in the Bible, they are referred to as a symbol of cunning, trickery, shape-shifter, trickster, clever helper, wise, adaptable creature or sometimes a deceptive menace. When we look into the Holy Scriptures, we come to understand that symbols of cunning, deceit, and destruction are also confirmed in the Bible namely in Books such as Song of Solomon 2:15 or Lamentations 5:18. When Jesus referred to them, He said they have holes but he has forgone about security and comfort of the present world.

#### **17. The royal donkey**

One of the most significant features of the donkey in the Bible, it is the prophecy of a king riding on a donkey. This image portrays numerous symbols such as humility, peace, hard work, royalty, nobleness and triumph of good over evil. In the prophecy of Balaam, the donkey played a crucial role by avoiding the prophet to curse Israel and to avoid imminent death. It is therefore a symbol of safety and direction in spiritually thanks to its stubbornness or tenacity.

In mythology, donkeys also refer to stubbornness, sometimes stupidity in the case of King Midas's ears as well as god Seth of Egypt. This is in total contrast to the Bible where it portrays humility, loyalty, and wisdom just as in Balaam's story. In many instances they were used as carriage by God or Jesus Christ. But also by Dionysus, Aesop. Donkeys are mentioned in various sacred books such as Bible or Hindu Puranas representing both base nature and divine association.

#### **18. The cunning fox**

In mythology, the features portraying the fox are usually known for being trickster, cunning and deceitful. It does not only have negative traits. Others recognize in this animal qualities such as a wise guide, a shape shifter, a divine messenger, a sign of great creativity. Some traditions refer to it as silver fox. It also symbolizes intelligence, adaptability, and transformation.

Foxes appear in the Bible, namely in the stories of Samson burning 300 foxes to burn the Philistines. The Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ referred to Herod Antipas as a fox. The Song of Solomon talks of little foxes destroying the vineyard. Lamentations in the Bible name foxes as desolation.

This implies that foxes represent small mistakes, errors, sins when accumulated can destroy a whole life. Fox is used also by our Lord and Saviour to characterize a dubious character made of deceit and manipulation. Fox is therefore from the spiritual and Christian perspective all about spoiling or desolation. It can also symbolize weapons to fight fierce enemies.

### 19. The dangerous wolf in sheep clothing

The wolf in sheep clothing refers to the symbolism of hypocrisy. In the book of Matthew 7 : 15-16, false prophets and teachers are referred to as wolves in sheep clothing. Wolves represent the outside world which is harsh, pernicious, dangerous and cunning. While the sheep is about the inner self full of innocence and happiness. But the two go together just that the order must be inverted. Believers are expected to live in this world without being of this world. This implies sheep in wolves' clothing.

Hence, it is a call for perpetual carefulness, as what appears righteous and harmless at first sight is not always the case. A primary investigation of the inward most often deceitful and dangerous is of great essence as we can find in the warning of Jesus Christ in Matthew 7:15 and other parts of the Holy Scriptures. We learn from this animal that believers are exposed to wolves who use the disguise of piety to destroy the fruits of their actions. Hence outward appearance is the symbol of the wolf, while inward is that of the sheep. We are called upon to be soft to God and harsh to the outside world. We must learn as a lesson not to allow ourselves be easily infiltrated.

### 20. Conclusion

The aim of this research was to explore the animal kingdom and derive profitable lessons for Mankind. This implied studying various types of animals and their spiritual symbolism such as mythical animals, ants, lions, dove, eagles, sparrow, dogs, wolves, cicada, fox, donkey, Camel, Rabbit, owl, dove, snake, etc.

Animals were created on the 5th and 6th days just before mankind. This is full of significance namely Man was meant for humility and only humbleness defines his greatness. Just like the best wine offered by Jesus in the Cana wedding, he is supposed only to rely on God's own time and decision. Hence we should be characterized by patience, wisdom, love that make the content of love. God's love is seen in all animals created by Him and through whom he speaks to us and show us that we are one animals and man with the same traits about with some specificities and differences. The lessons are varied but so vital and deep.

The said lessons and values to be derived from our co-creatures animal as man is a form of animal too are as follows: patience, humility, wisdom, merit, survival, usefulness, honesty, empathy, respect, responsibility, love, courage, justice, gratitude, and integrity. More specifically, we learnt from ants that unity is greater than any individuality, we should work tirelessly to meet our goals in life, discipline and hard work are the keys to success besides perseverance and courage as nothing is impossible to whom believes. These small animals realise bigger things than them thanks to their teamwork, discipline, hard work, and foresight.

The living styles of lions in their functioning and organization give us lessons in various ways concerning social bonds, cooperation in hunting or attaining objectives. They are also a source of teaching in terms of leadership, hierarchy, patience, rest, play and even respect of environment.

Doves, owls, eagles and sparrows are air animals. In addition to their aerial or spiritual characteristic when coming to symbolism, humans learn from them the following lessons namely team work, evolution, waking up early, self care, family come first, live in the present, take care of others, fly away of anything fishy, look far in the future, gender equality, eye for detail, trust in yourself, learn to let go, etc.

Dogs, fox and wolves are carnivorous that inspire values such as loyalty, loyalty, guidance, faithfulness. We are called to be dogs of God alone. We have to be intelligent cunning against evil, adaptable to circumstances, be spiritual guide, self transform and sources of transformation of others.

Cicada, donkey, Camel, Rabbit teach us perseverance, wisdom, intuition, God's divine expression. These values must rise above the simple quest for material things such as honour, power, money, food and sexual pleasure. We must know who we are then we will know others and everything else which tantamount to become dominant and no more slaves. For from the onset we are kings, spiritual beings and earthly sorrow should be a way to learn, we should fear not but have faith in the Lord.

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