

The Anthropocene

Humans are responsible for the greatest part of the population on the earth. In fact, 90% of the large animals of the world (animals heavier than a few kilograms) are either humans or domesticated animals. Some scientists declared the Anthropocene epoch: the epoch of humanity. They use this term because we have become the single most important agent of change in global ecology. Currently, the planet has one ecosystem now; there aren't disconnected places. A few millennium ago, the actions occurring in other continents had relatively no effect. However, globalization changed that.

But, are we better than other animals? There are two main ideologies. The first one suggests that animals and humans are part of the same. The second one, guided by books like Genesis, suggests that humans are a unique creation.

No matter which belief you prefer, there is something that cannot be denied: Animals are being exploited. Farmers already knew that they were exploiting domesticated animals, but they justified their actions in the name of their religions. At first, religions centered on the relationship between domesticated animals and plants and humans. Their view was that God created the world for us to use it — we had to be grateful of them, of course. — There were only two main characters, man and the Gods. They safeguarded and multiplied farm production, if we shared our production with them. Obviously, in this speech humans are very special and we also said that we were unique animals with eternal souls. Because of that we didn't ask animals if they wanted to be enslaved; neither did when slaving other humans, though.

After the Industrial Revolution, the script has been changed. The scientific revolution gave rise to humanist religions. Humanist religions don't hear any god; they silence them. People used to justify their actions in the name of God, now they do it in the name of man.

Personally, I think that being responsible for our acts is an improvement compared to guiding ourselves by God's desires. However, with a big power comes a big responsibility. I'm not sure if we are prepared to deal with that power, though. Actually, I feel like I'm not ready yet.