

WHAT YOU CAN LEARN FROM BABY RABBITS, CATS, DUCKS, AND HENS

ZULFIKAR MOINUDDIN AHMED

I was never a doggie person. But ever since I was a child, I was quite fond of little baby animals. I had at multiple times in my early life, before 13, had ducklings, kittens, chicken, etc. as pets. In the last few months I have been quite fond of some baby rabbits in Allen Texas. What is quite amazing to watch is how quickly the baby rabbits find their true nature and their skills. I remember when I was a graduate student at Columbia 1995-2000 roughly, I was fond of a kitten. I form emotional bonds with baby animals easily. And my kitten was adept at returning with paper balls and playing with me.

John Locke's 'Blank Slate' is an absurd theory for anyone with experience with baby animals. The chock-full of behaviours that are natural to baby animals is so rich and surprising that it is quite clear that, being evolutionary descendents of these animals or their equivalents from hundreds of millions years ago, we are even more chock-full of complex behaviours.

My convictions about this have only grown over the years, especially because of the amazing work of Jaak Pangsapp. The old ideas about human nature, where there are assumptions about how we absorb all sorts of things from the external world are quite unclear. Of course we do pay attention, but there is inner drive and an enormously complex set of things coded into the DNA, for baby and adult human beings as much as for baby animals.

Far be it from myself to consider ourselves to be biologically determined by our genetic heritage. We certainly are not. But we do have a rich heritage within our genetic inheritance.

As I grow older, I am less and less impressed by the *classification schemes* that have been produced for human beings. I indulge myself and consider whether the best scheme is indeed whether Zulf approves of someone or not.

1. NEED FOR CLASSIFICATION SCHEMES THAT ARE CIVILISED

Some centuries ago, British Raj ruled India, and this lasted into 1947. John Maynard Keynes learned his craft of economics in India before he turned to draft the postwar World Financial Order with Bretton Woods in 1944. Today India, despite V. S. Naipaul's various 'Wounded Continent' and other sorts of rubbish, is larger than England in Economy and smaller than Germany and is still recovering. India was not even competing in the global economy during British Raj. I do have seriously deep problems with the sorts of people who think they are better than others because of ethnicity. It really cannot be avoided. Who the fuck do they think they are? I am Zulf. I am an immortal genius. I don't take crap from this riffraff!

Date: June 15, 2021.

Substantially interesting classifications cannot be based on ethnicity, and my result that ethnicity effects on human moral nature is 6.5-9.5% of total variation shows the futility of doing this.

It is thus interesting to consider whether there are valuable classifications for human diversity at all, and this, to me is an interesting and open problem. I think valuable and substantial classification schemes are issues for the future. Classifications can be quite positive for the whole human race but these are likely not those used in this primitive age.