DO ANIMALS HAVE EGO'S? And do animals choose their own destiny and if so, why do some choose to be eaten?

ANSWER: Nothing chooses its own destiny. Not one expression of life stands on its own to choose for itself anything. Now you know why so few have woken up, because the ego itself is the supposition that such a choice actually exists. And it fights for its right to determine its life, its course. And all the time that it does this, it is acting at odds with the actual Movement of Creation.

The reason few have woken up is because few have arrived at a point of inner equilibrium that has allowed them to truly value the idea of yielding to the Father. That is unconscionable to the ego, to yield to anything, much less the Father—actually arrive at a point of saying, "The concept of self-determination is an illusion" It does not make sense from within the three-dimensional frame of reference—from the ego's vantage point. And yet, the power and the clarity and the joy and the congruence of Being, the experience of Being at Home, with a capital "H", cannot be experienced until self-determination is trashed—released—let go of.

You are, every single one of you, the imminent Movement of God, the present Movement of the Presence of God. Now the ego suggests that if you are not self-determined and that you are to succumb to the Will of God, then you are yielding yourself into fate. No. You are yielding into the conscious experience of the Movement of Creation, because you are not claiming a mind separate from the capital "M" Mind, the Infinite Intelligence that God Is, the Movement of which is the Action of Creation. And when you are not claiming a mind separate from the Father, when you are not energizing a sense of mind or presence separate from the Infinite Intelligence or Mind that the Father is, you come into the undistorted conscious experience of God Being God.

Mind you, this does not mean that you as a puny little mortal come into a conscious experience of being God. But when this sense of being a mortal is released, then you find yourself forever on the threshold of the Movement of God that is called Life, experiencing what at this point I would have to call an active participation with the Father in that Movement of Creation.

And I'm being careful in my choice of words here, because it is not you cooperating with or playing a part in something else called God Being God. Because when you yield to that experience, a sense of private selfhood disappears while conscious Individuality remains, except that that experience of conscious Individuality is in no way distinguishable from the Movement of Consciousness—the Movement of the Infinite Mind that God Is, that is the Movement of Creation.

So, how wonderful is self-determination if self-determination denies you the experience of unity with the Father, and the indivisible, inseparable experience of the Movement of Creation that is the Movement of your Being, because you are claiming and experiencing not being separate from the Infinite Being-God?

Now quite obviously all of you have a certain backlog of memories of some apparent ability to be self-determined and to be creative. But the only thing that you can seem to create is a resistance to Reality. The only thing that you can seem to create is a certain amount of distressing tension that is a result of trying to go at right angles to the river of your Being, or to try to swim upstream so that you may stay in a particular area where the view on shore is particularly attractive.

Mind you, this aggressive act of disagreement with the flow of Life, the flow of Creation, does not change the elements. The river is still there. The shoreline is still there. The view is still there. But it is not moving as it would be if you were flowing. I say this so that you may understand that your whole sojourn in the three–dimensional frame of reference, your whole trek through the personal sense of existence separate from the Father, is going on right in the middle of the Kingdom of Heaven. It's going on right in the middle of Reality. Which means that the dissonance you feel is what it feels like when you are acting at odds with the Kingdom of Heaven.

Your resistance to the undistorted experience of Reality does not create something new called unreality. And so you do not have something called unreality to work out of to get back to some other place called Reality. You are doing all of your dreaming right in the middle of the Kingdom of Heaven.

And all of you who are engaged in waking up and returning to the conscious experience of the Kingdom of Heaven, are engaging in this process from your destination. And it is extremely important to understand this so that you do not get caught in the idea that waking up is a long process that involves going from one place to some place else. And it is almost as though, while you are sitting in the middle of the Kingdom of Heaven in your ignorant reverie, an apple could fall from the tree over your head and snap you Awake.

You see, there really is no distance involved. And all of the processes you are going through are not absolutely necessary—they are helpful. But the more complex you conceptualize your Awakening to be, the less you will expect to experience it in the moment you are in. And to that degree you will tend to distance yourself, or delay the experience of Awakening. This is the only way in which you seem to create your experience.

But again, the only experience you seem to create is an ignorance of what is going on right where you are—Reality. You choose or create your dissonant experience, because you are resisting experiencing Reality. You are resisting giving yourself permission to acknowledge and experience your innocence, your guiltlessness, your sinlessness, your inherent perfection, your Birthright of the Christ Consciousness, your Birthright which is to experience yourself as the Presence of the Father/Mother, right here and right now.

And you create this dissonance by arguing on the side of your guilt and your worthlessness. You look back on this illusory experience that you have created which doesn't seem to uncover your divinity, and you say, "See, it proves that I am not worthy. Yesterday I was unloving. Last week I did something absolutely horrible. The week before I did something that was so thoughtless that my mind must be going. There is no justification for me to embrace the fact—what you call the fact—that I am divine."

But I am saying be radical, and don't abide by your acquired sense of what is intelligent and reasonable, and begin to actively claim your Birthright that you are the perfect Child of God. What does that make you? That makes you in actuality the Christ, right here, right now. That's the fact that you need to give yourself permission to experience. And then in order to experience it, you do have to be willing to succumb to the current of the river of your Being which is the Movement of God--God

expressed and embodied infinitely—of which you are the embodiment. And release all attempts to be self-determined from a standpoint of a puny little ego sense of yourself. And begin to be willing to experience the ways in which your life is capital "S" Self-determined, God-determined.

This process is suppose to be a delightful journey. And the only thing that seems to make it difficult for anybody is that they keep listening to their ego conditioning that says, "You are going crazy. You are not making sense. Nobody will respect you." But you know what? Becoming capital "S" Self-determined, where you as a little ego are not aggressively doing anything at all, really amounts to becoming Real—Real in the sense that you are getting to know yourself, who you Are—and not who others expect you to be and allowing yourself to be at home with whoever you find yourself to be in the moment.

You will find that as you let go of meeting other people's expectations, or resisting other people's expectations, you will begin to relax, and a common sense and intelligence will begin to be easily available to you because you are not compulsively defending yourself against or trying to comply with what the world expects of you. And your simple divinity will begin to come forth and be expressed. And you won't end up just being a good guy. You will end up being a presence that is truly meaningful and that others will enjoy being with, because you are so down-to-earth. And you seem always to have the answer or the words that bring perspective into play and annihilates conflict and concern.

When you begin to stop being self-determined from a small ego standpoint, and you relax with yourself about yourself, you will find yourself becoming eminently intelligent. That is what Paul is doing at this moment. And there is nothing overwhelming about him. And there is nothing arrogant about him. There is nothing that creates a feeling of a need for defensiveness.

Yes, I am speaking at the moment. But if Paul would allow himself to speak at this moment, it would be what I am saying. Because I am not speaking to you as a personality; you could say I am speaking as the voice for Truth, because I am claiming no other presence than the presence of Truth. And when one is allowing the ego sense to be out of

the way, one becomes the transparency for Truth, the ultimate appropriateness at any given moment.

Paul is not being self-determined at this moment—self-determined, with a small "s". Now, he is become self-conscious, with a small "s". And I will take the opportunity to use this as an example, because he has learned under these circumstances that when he becomes self-conscious, it is important for him to not energize it, but to become centered again, and therefore Self-determined, with a capital "S". And as a result of that, he does not lose the capacity to continue to be the presence of unconditional love and intelligence and appropriateness.

Now I bring this out because the same thing applies to all of you at various times you become self-conscious. You become ego conscious, and you lose whatever equilibrium you have gained. And always when that happens it is because an ego sense of vulnerability has come into play. And why would there be an ego sense of vulnerability? Because you believe that you are confronted with other egos, who of course are undependable and certainly frightening. If when this happens, you will immediately cease to define those around you whom you are reacting to as egos which you need to be defensive against, and then you choose to move back to your best equilibrium, you will recover your equilibrium and will be able to continue to be what I will call an agent for change, because you are not contributing to and substantiating the ego dynamic—the ego illusion.

The tendency always when this happens is to become defensive, and then arm yourselves even further to be protected against being judged. And so you leave your best centered place, or your best equilibrium, you become a good little defensive ego armed against the egos whom you have judged will judge you, and intelligence is lost, and the ability to be appropriate and healing and being meaningful is lost.

You become capital "S" Self-determined by setting aside all attempts to be self-determined as a body—as a person confined by the outline of your form. If you want to experience ongoing ignorance, frustration and confusion, be self-determined. And if indeed you want to become that presence of genuineness that is the Presence of God right where you are, give up self-determination and be in touch with yourself with love. And

then just be out of that place of balance and of peace that is always there in that love.

Oh yes, animals do indeed attempt to be self-determined. They have as big egos as human beings. And they also have to learn to yield. That's the end of the answer.

~Raj/JESUS Conducted by the Northwest Foundation for ACIM