



Neo-vegan perspectives – 3

Neoveganism as a way forward in our current day Western democracies

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It seems the more you realize the political scope of human action and human thought, the less you deal the absurd idea that there would be one single power (the establishment, the fiscal world, a people, a god) that runs everything in a totalitarian style: the big complexes of “might” stifle the individuals power to impact things, but individual action can’t be substituted in democracies.

What can I as a seemingly powerless individual do when I see an unfathomable disaster such as the BP oil spill, a disaster caused by the whole of our civilization? Our civilization bases upon homocentist ideals, it doesn’t need to take the natural environment and it’s “wild” inhabitants into account. To deal responsibly as an individual means I have to be willing to see the bigger contexts of the things, and widen my view over any anthropocentric limit.

On the opposite side of the big context of things it's the individual that has an impact on the situation she lives in: by action (political action, in the fundamental sense) and by thought (opinion, philosophy).

It's an ethical responsibility

When I make the sensible claim that ethics should be the factor upon which to decide what's wrong and what's right, I should also acknowledge that ethics means to behave respectfully towards life – as old fashioned as it sounds. What is respectful? And what type of life matters and can be treated with which forms of respect?

Every living being on this earth has its own place in the universe – practically. The world should not be seen homocentrically simply because we can't fathom the meaningfulness of other life in regards to those dimensions which we don't know anything or much about. Other "dimensions" of meaning aren't restricted to physics and mathematical abstraction: ethics, and its substance (life!) too has dimensions beyond a narrow anthropocentric reach.

If I take the ethical vastness and comprehensiveness into account, I am able to see that every action I can do, and every wrong I don't do, wherever I am, has an impact on the life around me. Taking the interest of all life into ethical consideration makes the action of the individual meaningful.

When I see that human progress is built mostly on a destructive relationship towards life - which we use and degrade to "resources" - I should realize that the step I have to do, is to take up veganism and go further from that point on.