

Traditional Human Cultural Influences on Animals

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Abstract. Many of the world's animals are being positively or negatively affected by human production and activities in various ways of behavior and lifestyle. This paper focuses on the exploration of the many aspects of the impact of traditional human culture on animals. The results of this paper show that animals are mostly negatively affected by human traditional culture. However, efforts are being made to save and take remedial measures, this is only because the historical legacy cannot be cured in a short period of time and people need to put more efforts to improve the various conservation measures. The purpose of this study is to hope that people can remedy their negative impacts on animals in nature and to make people understand how they can do so in time. By studying various cases and collecting data from different regions, this paper aims to reveal the specific ways in which traditional practices harm wildlife. Ultimately, the call is to create a balanced, symbiotic environment where traditional practices can coexist with modern conservation efforts.

Keywords: Animal protection, Traditional culture, Human impact on animals.

1. Introduction

In many parts of the world today there are still many people who follow the customs and habits of their ancestors. These customs and traditional cultures also have a significant impact on animals, with both positive and negative effects on their lives. Current research at home and abroad shows that many traditional customs and cultures play a positive role in animal protection in some aspects. For example, animals are ceremonially released during traditional festivals in some places, which not only reflects people's respect for life but also increases the population of wild animals to a certain extent[1]. However, on the other hand, certain traditional practices may also have negative impacts on animals. For example, traditional festivals in certain places may involve hunting and slaughtering of large numbers of animals, which not only harms individual animals but may also cause damage to the local ecosystem. In recent years, more and more scholars and environmental organizations have begun to pay attention to and study these issues, in the hope that through scientific research publicity, and education, a balanced approach can be found to protect animals and their habitats while respecting cultural traditions. For example, by promoting more eco-friendly ways of celebrating, or guiding people to inherit and carry forward traditional culture in other ways that do not harm animals. Overall, the conflict and integration between traditional culture and modern environmental concepts is complex and dynamic. Only through continuous research and efforts can humans find the best solution that protects animals while respecting cultural traditions[2]. The purpose and motivation of this study is also to be able to better understand and solve these problems. Through in-depth research and interdisciplinary collaboration, effective methods can be found to protect animals while respecting cultural traditions. This is not only for the protection of animals but also for the preservation of the balance and diversity of the Earth's ecosystems. This article will collect and analyze relevant data from local communities, cultural experts, ecologists, and environmental organizations. Through field investigations and interviews, we will understand the specific impact of traditional customs in different regions on animals, and based on this, propose feasible improvement suggestions. At the same time, we also hope to organize seminars and promotional activities to spread the concepts of animal protection and ecological friendliness to the public, in order to raise awareness of the importance of these issues among more people.

2. Relationship Between Traditional Cultural Influences on Animals

Due to its long history of influence, human society has now developed more diverse folk cultures that have had a huge impact on current life. Human activities have always had a different impact on many things on earth, especially animals in nature. Throughout its long history, folklore and related cultural activities have influenced animals far more than one can imagine. Many cultures have influenced the number, size and living environment of animals, which in turn led to their emergency deaths[3]. For example, traditional hunting activities and sacrificial rituals often led to drastic population declines in certain species; the development of agriculture and urbanization have significantly altered the habitats of animals, forcing them to migrate or adapt to new environments. These cultures and practices not only change the way animals live but also have a profound impact on ecosystems[3].

However, several cultural practices have a positive impact on animals. For example, some cultures have traditions of protecting certain animals and even hold them sacred. Such beliefs and practices go some way to protecting these animals from the threat of over-hunting and extinction. Every country has its own different culture, and all of these cultures have an impact on animals in one way or another. China is a culturally rich country with 56 ethnic groups, each of which is inextricably linked to animals, and many of which have animal totem worship. People found that the ancient Chinese snake totem beliefs can be found not only from the ancient texts, but also from the physical anthropological data, to find a variety of examples. And not only is the snake totem, other animal totems are also picked up, the list goes on. In the ancient book "Classic of Mountains and Seas", which was written between pre-Qin and early Han Dynasty in China, there are a lot of myths and legends. Through this kind of myth, can savor the animal worship that is the remains of the totem worship. For example, the Classic of Mountains and Seas - Overseas North Classic has the following words: "He is a big man, with his left hand manipulating the green snake, and his right hand manipulating the yellow snake". The Overseas East Classic says, "He is a black man, with a snake in each hand, a green snake in his left ear and a red snake in his right ear." The serpent is the totem. The North Times Three Scriptures have the following words: "The name of the maiden of Yan Di is Nuwa. The maiden swam in the East China Sea and drowned but did not return, so she became the Jingwei, and often took the wood and stones of the Western Mountains to the East China Sea." This indicates that the eastern tribal branch of Yandi's descendants had a bird totem. The creation of the twelve signs of the Chinese zodiac also relies on the prevalence of animal worship, totem worship and the use of the stem and branch chronology, which are complementary to each other and are indispensable. For religious and cultural reasons, many people no longer capture and eat animals of their own beliefs or unique significance, and treat these animals with great respect. Similarly, because of the vastness of China, in the high mountains, plateaus, basins and grasslands of the west and north, people prohibit or control hunting and resource exploitation at certain times, out of principles handed down from their ancestors[4]. In southwestern China--Yunnan--there are many ethnic minorities living, all with their own cultures and specialties. The Yi people living in the Zixi Mountain area of Yunnan have had totem worship for generations, with many animals and plants being used as direct objects of worship that come from many ancient stories and legends[5-6]. The Yi in the Zixi Mountain area worships many kinds of animals such as snakes, eagles, and owls. They also worship other animals such as tigers, buffaloes, musk, antelopes, bears, monkeys, wolves, Dian rabbits, swans, pheasants, turtle doves, bamboo fowls, frogs, bees and butterflies. Therefore, this behavior plays a very positive role in protecting the animal species concerned. In addition, the Yi's totem worship extends to many plants. For example, they especially worship camphor trees, chestnut trees, pine trees, and bamboo. Sacrificing these plants and animals is an important part of the traditional festivals and celebrations of the Yi. They believe that by doing so they can pray for the blessings of nature to ensure a good harvest and peace for their families[1].

Of course, in addition to the protective behavior of humans who hold animals as beliefs, there are also very negative effects on animals. Animals are naturally subject to some destruction, and the following is mainly an example of the most persecuted sheep. Sheep, as a common animal worshipped

by ancient forefathers, was a significant sacrifice in rituals and was considered by humans to be God's favorite animal. In the Book of Genesis, "Cain took the produce of the field and offered it to the LORD; Abel also offered the firstborn of the flock and the fat of the sheep. Sheep sacrifices also began very early in China. In a primitive petroglyph from Rimu Cave, Rising District, Ritsu County, Tibet, there is a sacrificial scene in which as many as 125 sheep's heads are used. This is presumed that this was a grand sacrifice. The remains of five stone circles, belonging to the Neolithic period, were found in the Dezhuang Qijia culture in Yongjing County, Gansu Province[3]. The remains were surrounded by cow and sheep skeletons. The significance of sheep is not limited to sacrificial rituals; they are an integral part of human society in every way. In ancient civilizations, sheep provide wool, meat, and milk, contributing to the livelihood and economy of the community. The domestication of sheep marked a crucial step in developing agriculture, enabling the establishment of sedentary societies and contributing to human progress in other areas. Culturally, sheep are also a symbol of innocence and purity, and the relationship between humans and sheep has been one of mutual benefit and respect for thousands of years. This enduring bond underscores the importance of understanding and preserving the historical and cultural significance of such animals, ensuring that future generations recognize their value and continue to respect their contribution to human civilization[4].

3. Elements of Protective Behavior for Animals

In order to protect these endangered species and maintain the ecological balance, many countries and organizations have begun to take various measures. For example, nature reserves and wildlife sanctuaries have been established to provide safe habitats; strict hunting and fishing regulations have been implemented to limit the hunting and killing of wild animals; and environmental education has been promoted to raise public awareness of the protection of wild animals and the environment. At the same time, scientists are actively researching ways to conserve biodiversity, including the establishment of gene banks, artificial propagation of endangered species, and ecological restoration projects. These efforts not only help to restore and protect threatened animal populations but also provide valuable resources for future ecological research[5]. Over time, humans have come to recognize the importance of protecting animals and ecosystems. Many cultures have begun to promote the concept of living in harmony with nature, emphasizing the need to protect endangered species and restore ecological balance. For example, some traditional festivals and customs have gradually been transformed into activities themed on the protection of and reverence for nature, which not only promotes people's concern for the ecological environment but also strengthens society's awareness of environmental protection. At the same time, the development of science and technology has also provided new means for the protection of animals and ecosystems. Through satellite monitoring, genetic research, and ecological restoration projects, human beings can gain a more precise understanding of the survival status of animals, formulate scientific protection measures, and reduce damage to the natural environment. These efforts not only help to protect biodiversity but also lay the foundation for sustainable development in the future.

In the context of globalization, cooperation among countries has also become particularly important. International organizations and transnational cooperation projects have played an active role in protecting endangered species, restoring ecosystems, and addressing climate change[7]. By sharing knowledge and technology, countries can work together to address environmental challenges and promote sustainable development of the global ecology.

In today's society, as environmental awareness grows, people are beginning to re-examine their relationship with the natural world. Many countries and regions have formulated and implemented animal protection laws and policies to reduce the negative impact of human activities on animals[8]. In the long symbiotic relationship between human beings and animals, the impact of human beings on animal societies, for better or for worse, has been thought-provoking. Assuming that humans want a longer, more peaceful future and need to give animals more protection and freedom, human culture has affected the normal activities of animal populations and many animals have been forced to migrate and settle further away. Many animals have been forced to migrate and settle further away,

although many cultural behaviors have helped animal populations to thrive. The impact of human culture on animals is very deep[9]. In today's society, as environmental awareness grows, people are beginning to re-examine their relationship with the natural world. Many countries and regions have formulated and implemented animal protection laws and policies to reduce the negative impact of human activities on animals. At the same time, more and more people have begun to pay attention to animal welfare and promote the concepts of humanitarianism and sustainable development[10]. human beings have thousands of years of history, some cultural practices are not likely to be uprooted soon, and there are many areas of our country for some of the national culture of hunting and killing of precious animals in some ethnic cultures, hopefully in the distant future, animals will be with humans now.

4. Conclusion

Traditional culture has had a profound and strong influence on the animal kingdom for a long time. Whether benign or malignant, these are evidence of the coexistence of the human and animal kingdoms for hundreds and thousands of years. The significance of Whether benign or malignant, these are evidence of the coexistence of the human and animal kingdoms for hundreds and thousands of years. is to demonstrate in a more written way the impact of traditional human culture on the animal kingdom. These cultural symbols have not only influenced the way people view these animals but also the way humans treat them. Many animals are protected and worshipped because of their symbolism, while others may be treated unfairly because of negative cultural impressions. By delving into these cultural influences, humans can better understand the complex relationship between humans and animals and hopefully find ways to live together more harmoniously. In today's society, because of the deep-rootedness of all cultures, there is no quick fix for these evils. However, the author hopes that people can realize that protecting animals is not only about preserving cultural heritage, but also about protecting the future of humanity. I hope that through this research, more people can pay attention to animal protection and promote harmonious coexistence between humans and nature.

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