

Muzaffer Hussain is a Padmashri, an eminent Muslim lawyer, a writer of books like Muslim Manas, Insight in Minoritism and 12 others. He has won 13 National Awards. His latest book is Islam and Shakahar (vegetarianism) which he has sent me.

Chapter 3 is entitled, the Cow and the Koran. This is the one that interests me the most because all through Rampur, Bareilly, Aonla and Badaun, my constituency and district, cows and bullocks are being killed with a frenzy. They are taken openly in trucks or walked to a slaughterhouses in Bareilly and one in Sahaswan, Badaun. Thousands are killed every day in the most brutal conditions. I have caught many trucks during my election and everyone in my constituency has been told that this will no longer be tolerated. The police of Faridpur get a weekly bribe from the butchers and a large number of policemen spread across Aonla, Aliganj. The centre of the killing is a village called Bhagvantapur in Faridpur but no policeman dares enter it because the last one who did so was beaten and hospitalized.

According to Hussain there is not a single sura (chapter) in the holy Koran that allows any killing of cows or bulls. On the other hand there are instructions on what human being should eat. While instructing Adam, Allah had said While your wife and you lived in the paradise, I had given you fruits to eat. And now, wherever you live will provide fruits for you. (2.35) There are four verses which specify fruits for man and promise him fruits in paradise.

The famous Iranian Islamic philosopher and scholar Alghazali (1058-1111 A.D) who established the Islamic Academy of Baghdad says in his book Ahya ul Deen (Revival of Religious Science): The meat from cows beef is an illness (marz), its milk is pure (safa) which means good for health and its ghee is a medicine. The cow is like a mother to all mankind. Everything it gives us is like a blessing to all human beings. Just as a mother breast feeds her baby, the cow gives her milk to the entire humanity. It has been scientifically proved that cow milk is good for the brain and increases memory power. A person who is strong in mind will always remember Allah. Therefore cow milk is a basic need for the development of mankind. It is a grave sin to kill such a useful animal that is like a mother herself.

For Non Vegeterians there are other options in the meat. But for the humanity's sake, they should sacrifice the very idea of cow slaughter. It is not only the moral duty of mankind to protect the cow, but it is the religion of humanity itself to do so.

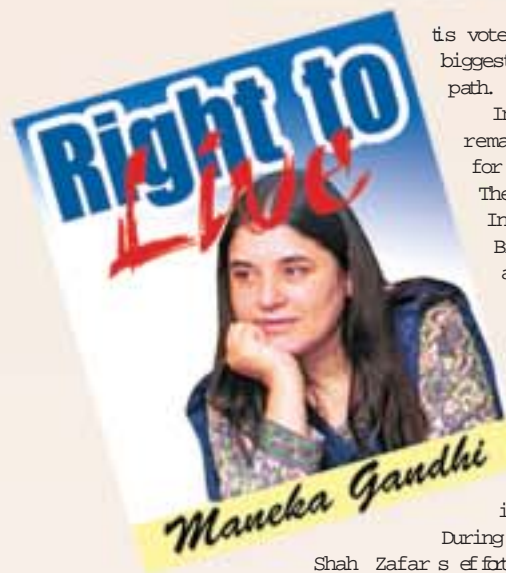
The Imam of the London-based mosque Shahjahan, Al Hafiz B S Masri says, the Koran is totally against cruelty to the cow. In many places in the holy Koran is clearly stated that kindness be shown towards animals and all living organisms in the world.

In this book Protection of Animals in the Islamic world, Al Hafiz Masri writes, it is a matter of shame for the manner in which Muslims the world over, slaughter animals in the name of religion.

The holy Koran says, - You are answerable for the smallest harm you cause to a tiny bird. One who is kind to the smallest living being, Allah shall ultimately return him the benefit in equal measure in this world and even beyond it.

Those Muslim invaders, who came to India and stayed on to make it their home and rule over it, understood that the people of India had a special veneration for the cow. Hence as a mark of respect towards their feelings, the rulers prohibited the slaughter of cows.

Babar in Tuzik-e Babari while making a will in favour of his son Humayun, says that the people of India are very reli-



gious minded. You should respect their sentiments. They are extremely compassionate towards the cow.

Fruits, not meat, are food for humans

Hence do not allow the cow to be sacrificed or killed anywhere in the limits of the Mughal Empire. The day any Mughal emperor ignores this will, the common people or the citizenry shall reject him.

Aurangzeb refuted the will and it did not take long for his downfall.

In India, there have been many fatwas which came up in the Daar-ul-fatwa of Deoband, Bareilly, Phuleri Shareef, Lucknow and Hyderabad in the matter of cow slaughter. There has always been a common thread amongst all the fatwas; they were not in favour of cow slaughter.

Because India attaches a lot of religious, social and scientific importance to the cow family, its population comes into direct confrontation with those who destroy the cow on the basis of their religion fervour and fundamentalism. The government of India is more culpable than the Muslims in the matter of protection of the cow because its laws and appeasement of

unity were immortalized in history. The proclamation of the Mughal Emperor in honour of the cow became an important document in history. The royal decree of 28 July 1857 banning cow slaughter reads as follows:

Creation of the Lord (Khalk Khuda Ka), in the empire of the emperor, by the order of the supreme commander of the armed forces, whosoever slaughters or sacrifices a cow or a bull, or a calf openly or surreptitiously in his house in this festive season of Bakra Idd, shall be considered an enemy of the emperor himself and will be punished by death.

Not only within the Mughal Empire but in every Muslim kingdom and principality, were orders decreed regarding the cow.

Contemporary

kings and nawabs continued to make royal decrees in this regard and whenever necessary even issued fatwas. Islam prohibits that act which hurts your neighbour's feelings, and that food item which when consumed creates ill-feeling in those who surround you. Hence it is a common sentiment that to preserve communal brotherhood or fraternity India must legally ban cowslaughter. Islamic scholars of different school of thought have until now issued 117 fatwas appealing to Muslims not to slaughter cows.

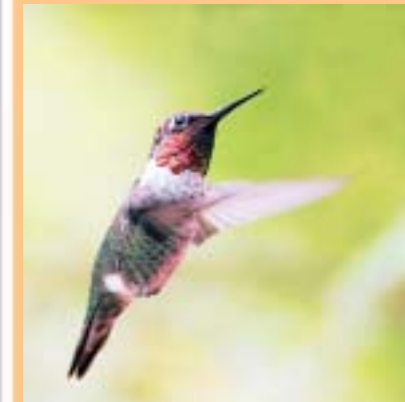
Jamiat-ul-ulema president late Asad Madani had issued a statement requesting the Muslims not to kill cows on Bakra-Idd.

Muslims have set up Goshalas (cow-shelters) in many places. Sufi saints have nurtured cows. In Nagpur one such Muslim saint and his wife used to run a goshala. Tajjuddin Baba was famous for his devotion to cows. Urdu poets have written poems in the praise of cows. If Raskhan is famous in Hindi for this, then the late poet Mohammad Ismail of Meerut is equally well-known in Urdu. His poetry is recited by students in Urdu schools and they sing in praise of the cow.

Please stop this illegal killing in Bareilly, Aonla and Badaun voluntarily.

To join the animal welfare movement contact gandhim@nic.in

Anna's Hummingbird declared fastest animal on Earth



The humble hummingbird is the fastest animal in the world, scientists have discovered.

Researchers have found that the spectacular courtship dive of the Anna's Hummingbird makes it comparatively speedier than a jet fighter at full throttle or the space shuttle re-entering the atmosphere.

They found that when the bird, a native of North America, pulls up at the end of the swoop it experiences forces 10 times the pull of gravity - more than even experienced jet pilots can endure without passing out.

The amazing speeds were measured using a series of cameras which calculated that the male bird, which is only four inches long, attained speeds in excess of 58mph, as it dived from 100ft in the air to impress a mate.

The team at the University of California, which reported its findings in the Proceedings of the Royal Society B, revealed that the bird flies at 385 "body lengths a second" which is faster than the previous record holders, the peregrine falcon diving in pursuit of prey and swallows diving from high altitude.

It is also faster than a fighter plane with its afterburners on - 150 "body lengths a second" - and the space shuttle during atmospheric re-entry (207 body lengths a second).

The Anna's Hummingbird, which was named in the 19th century after Anna Massena, Duchess of Rivoli and weighs less than five grams, normally flies at 33mph but hits even higher speeds when display diving during the breeding season.

When a female flies onto a male's territory, he rises up and then dives. At the bottom of the dive when the bird reaches top speed it produces a loud sound, described by some as an "explosive squeak" with its outer tail-feathers.

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