

Moshe Zuckermann

For Kevin, Sabine, Christof, Jan, Leo and all the others who are fighting for a truly humane world.

Crushed Worm

The bible story of the deluge is an odd one. What kind of God has one come up with, who, only a few chapters after the glorious account of creation felt coerced to change his mind and compelled to eradicate most of humankind. And even if humanity had to be punished for their sinfulness – what was the animals' crime? Animals which after all were still that as what they had been created: pure nature? This must also have crossed the minds of those who authored the Bible. For whereas Noah and his kin as the only righteous members of their kind were retained as generic samples of the human race, the animals, not endowed with morality and thus incapable of sin, were at least saved pair wise, two specimen of each species and genus. In the renowned painting of the deluge by Gustav Doré, the hierarchy of innocence as visible shortly before cataclysm is symbolically preserved as it is: Next to a summit of a rock, washed around by the rising flood, figures of two drowning parents stretch, in a last effort to haul up their children on the towering stone, trying to save them from the calamity. The moribund children populate the summit – and next to them, surmounting all, a tigress tends her offspring. A captivating image: In the face of uppermost danger, approaching death, animal and men seem, penned up as they are, not noticing each other, reconciled. The “hostility”, caused by the civilising formation – the subjugation of animals by man, their persecution, killing and utilisation- is extinguished momentarily in view of the biblically approaching final solution: The human mother still reaching for her children while drowning herself and the mother animal carrying its offspring between its jaws are “united” in approaching death as it is. Is it so? No, certainly not. The civilisation which formed after the deluge will have learned nothing from this God-caused natural disaster. Instead they will rid themselves of God by degree, instate man himself as the murderous God and progress for so long as it takes to bring the industrialised extermination of man and animal to its cultural barbaric perfection. One should divide between animal and man at all cost? Should one? When did this high-handedly argued separation ever prevented

