

**Question:** Why do animals have to suffer, especially through the hands of humans? Suffering of animals has no sense, has it, and God never does anything senseless. In Eden God told man and woman to take care of his creation, to be good stewards. In Eden, the whole of creation was in harmony with man and woman. Why has this changed? Because of original sin the beautiful harmony was disrupted and chaos began to reign in the universe, but can we not get this harmony back on earth?

**Response:** There is a hierarchy of creation. To Luisa Jesus reveals, *"My daughter, all creation symbolizes God, and the order of the diversity of saints and souls. All the harmony, unity, order and inseparability that creation possesses symbolizes the celestial hierarchy with its Creator as its head"* (L. Piccarreta, volume 29, March 16, 1931). The hierarchy of creation with God at its head, was under the dominion of Adam, the first human being. All creation was obedient to his every nod. To Luisa Mary reveals, *"The Divine Fiat made me understand the creation of man, who was made innocent and holy... He held command over all creation and all the elements were obedient to his every nod..."* (*The Blessed Virgin Mary in the Kingdom of the Divine Will*, Day 4).

If in God's Plan-A world of Eden all creation was made in perpetual harmony and mutual love, after sin entered the world, this Plan-A world gave way to our present Plan-B world. It is in this Plan-B world that Peter was commanded by God to slaughter and eat: *"...While they were on their way and nearing the city, Peter went up to the roof terrace to pray at about noontime. He was hungry and wished to eat, and while they were making preparations he fell into a trance. He saw heaven opened and something resembling a large sheet coming down, lowered to the ground by its four corners. In it were all the earth's four-legged animals and reptiles and the birds of the sky. A voice said to him, 'Get up, Peter. Slaughter and eat.' But Peter said, 'Certainly not, sir. For never have I eaten anything profane and unclean'. The voice spoke to him again, a second time, 'What God has made clean, you are not to call profane.' This happened three times, and then the object was taken up into the sky"* (Acts 10:9-16).

It is also in this Plan-B world that Jesus chose the innocent swine to become the target of demons: *"Jesus asked him, 'What is your name?'" He replied, 'Legion is my name. There are many of us.' And he pleaded earnestly with him not to drive them away from that territory. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside. And they pleaded with him, 'Send us into the swine. Let us enter them.' And he let them, and the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine. The herd of about two thousand rushed down a steep bank into the sea, where they were drowned"* (Mk. 5:10; Mt. 8:31).

The hierarchy of God's Plan-A world in which there existed no killing to survive, gave way to the Plan-B world where killing to survive is encouraged. The killing of animals (fish and other animals) to survive was not only carried out by Jesus (who ordered to fish to be netted and caught for food), but it was given as a command to Peter by God (Acts 10: 9-16). Indeed Luisa relates that Christ ate "lamb" at the last supper (cf. *The Hours of the Passion*, 7pm Hour). This

Plan-B world is only for a while, that is, only until Christ returns in the flesh. When he returns in the flesh we will return to the way it was in the beginning in the Plan-A world. This Plan-B world permitted by God does *not* justify those who kill animals for sport. For animal cruelty is a sin and has no place in Scripture. On the contrary, Scripture has laws that protect animals from cruel treatment. But let us recall that animals serve man – man does not serve animals. Yet, man has a responsibility before God to be the "steward of all creation" and to respect and love all creatures.