

killed in the traps, each year; most of them severely injured and left to suffer and die.

In addition to the manufacture of profitable fashion items, the cannibals also used their victims' skins in the production of furniture, and their bones for tableware and ornaments.

A particular Curthan speciality was a by-product of the flesh industry, extracted from the bones, cartilages, tendons, organs and some intestines of the less important ones in the slaughterhouses. Classified as foodstuff, about 600 million pounds of this product were extracted planet-wide, every year. And this delicacy was widely used in many "foods", especially confectionery, also in drug and cosmetic manufacturing, as well as various other products, such as glues.

And despite the fact that in every case there were numerous alternatives that did not involve any carnage; all of the products extracted through the slaughter of their fellow-beings continued to make a good deal

of money for the cannibal industries. The demand for many of these goods actually increased as the population grew—along with the evident dulling of the cannibals' sensibilities.

There were, however, some more fortunate Curthans, who, instead of being eaten or mistreated, were kept as companions in the various households of the more important Curthans, all over the planet. And just as the cannibals decided that they were more important than the less important Curthans whom they ate, so they also decided that those less important Curthans whom they kept as companions were more important than the other less important ones who were not kept as pets. So these more fortunate, less important Curthans were protected and fed, and often quite pampered. Special food was even produced to feed them—made with the flesh of the

So they decided that those less important Curthans whom they kept as companions were more important than the other less important ones, whom they ate.

CHAPTER FOUR

"Nothing will benefit human health and increase chances for survival of life on Earth as much as the evolution to a vegetarian diet."

Albert Einstein

In the End: I

As the years went by, the cannibal Curthans became more and more entrenched in their habits, and their flesh-eating was spiralling out of control. At this closing stage of their history, around forty three trillion of their fellow beings were now being killed every year, in order to satisfy their lust for flesh. The slaughter business had become the largest industry on the planet.

As with most businesses that grow very big, very fast; production tends to become the number one concern, over-riding all other considerations, in the frantic endeavour to keep up with demand. And so, in the



*"Flesh eating is unprovoked murder."
Benjamin Franklin (1706 – 1790)*

appeared to be more concerned about any threat to their lifestyle than the looming disaster, and the general reaction was to swiftly silence any protest, whether voiced in the government, workplace, schools or home.

Much of the insight, as we have seen, tended to originate in the fresh, bright minds of the children and young people, before their conditioning was complete.

"Daddy, what is 'humanely'?" a Curthan child looked up from his homework, and asked his father, one day.

"Why, what's brought that up?" grunted his father, peering at him over the newspaper he was reading.

"Nothing, really... I just heard someone at school say that she didn't want to eat the roast beef because it was cruel, and then the teacher told her not to be silly, and said there was nothing wrong with eating it, since it had been killed humanely."

"Well, the teacher's right."

"But what does it mean?" the boy asked

again.

"It means 'in a humane way'," his father told him.

"What's 'humane'?" his son persisted.

The father laid aside his paper and took recourse to the dictionary that happened to be resting on top of the schoolbooks on the table.

"It means 'benevolent and compassionate'," he explained, "'inflicting the minimum of pain'. —And before you ask what 'benevolent' and 'compassionate' are," he added, "it means 'good – friendly and helpful – and kind'."

The young boy struggled, for a few moments, with his thoughts; his normally vivid imagination failing him, for once. "... Daddy, how do you kill somebody in a good, friendly, helpful, and kind way?" he asked, at length.

The boy's father shifted uncomfortably in his seat. "It... well, it means in a way that inflicts the least amount of pain," he said with what he hoped was an air of finality, as he picked up his paper again and buried his head behind it.