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THE SENTIENCE OF THE FISH

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Currently, no form of inhumane treatment of animals is accepted, because when mistreatment is identified, whether in a domestic offspring or in a slaughter, the human being will be liable to punishment within the rigors of the law. Law Numer 9605 of February 12, 1998, says in its Art. 32 which is a crime: "Practicing acts of abuse, mistreatment, injuring or mutilating wild, domestic or domesticated, native or exotic animals". Thus, anyone who performs any type of slaughter of an animal that has not been previously subjected to stunning would be committing a crime.

Normative Instruction Number 3 of January 17, 2000, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (MAPA) defines that "Stunning: is the process applied to the animal, to quickly provide a state of insensibility, maintaining vital functions until bleeding". It is interesting to note that this Normative Instruction only supports a group of animals: "[...] mammals (cattle, horses, pigs, sheep, goats and rabbits) and domestic birds, as well as wild animals raised in captivity, sacrificed in establishments under veterinary inspection". References to the fish group are not observed in current legislation. Are fish insensitive?

Brazil is currently increasing its fish production according to the new report by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, released in July 2016, and may have the largest increase in aquaculture and fish production in Latin America in the next decade, with an increase of 104% until 2025, surpassing Mexico (54.2%) and Argentina (53.9%). The growth in the country is due to public policies and investments made in the sector in recent years. It is possible to see that many residents of the rural area of the country develop small fish farms, even for subsistence purposes.

Faced with the lack of legislation on welfare and the humane slaughter of fish, Pedrazzani

et al. (2008) conducted a survey at the City Festival of Live Fish and in the Auracária Bus Station, where they obtained data that point to the population's lack of knowledge about the humane slaughter of fish, however, when asked about whether fish feel pain, most said that fish feel pain. Fish are killed by humans in several ways: they are put alive in bags and asphyxiated to death; they are eviscerated alive; they are killed with blows to the head... Such cruel practices trigger *perimortem* stress leading to a situation of panic, fear and flight causing the fish to use their energy reserves, directly influencing the quality of the fish. (VIEGAS et al., 2012). Cruelty in slaughter, most of the time, is carried out naturally and without any stunning on the part of the perpetrators. These aforementioned forms of slaughter, when dealing with mammals, are extremely rejected and promptly censored by the State and society, it seems that only some groups of animals are sentient. A slaughtering method, applied to fish, that disguises itself as humanitarian is the thermal shock with water and ice, which according to Viegas et al. (2012) is contested by the slow death that varies from species to species. Some philosophers such as Anaximander (610 – 547 BC) believed that man emerged from the belly of a fish. It seems strange to attribute inherent faculties to human beings, but some situations indicate that some animals, such as fish, understand and somehow think. Some fishermen usually say that a certain place has no fish, it is possible that it has fish, but somehow the fish in this place have learned to associate hooks or nets with threats, fleeing or dodging them. For Spiritism, we are all spiritual beings in progress and human beings feed themselves at the expense of other lives. running or dodging them. For Spiritism, we are all spiritual beings in progress and human beings feed themselves at the expense of other lives. running or dodging them. For Spiritism,

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In man's flesh, in his blood, in his bones, there is not an atom different from those found in the bodies of animals; all, when they die, restore to the earth the oxygen, hydrogen, carbon, nitrogen that were combined to form. (CAIBAR SCHUTEL, 1982).

Within this spiritist view, the human being causes pain, agony and victimizes animals that are endowed with certain faculties that, many times, are inherent to human beings.

So much so that, in man, the embryo reproduces through rapid evolution all the species through which it passed to the race. We were all, in the maternal womb, monera, mollusk, fish, reptile, quadruped,

man in short. Each return of the spirit, in the reincarnation process, goes through all these evolutionary phases of the past. (DELANNE (1992) apud LORICCHIO, p. 106, 2005).

Human beings constantly underestimate the ability of animals, Theophrastus believed in the sentience of animals and that our relationship morally must not be above animals. Therefore, the human being cannot protect certain groups of animals and ignore others, although there are some laws that deal with some slaughter techniques related to fish, more studies are necessary for the knowledge and understanding of the group of fish and these studies must be used as a basis for raising awareness among the population, who every day discover a healthy source of food in fish.

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