

Our Phylum's Caste System

Earth's vast common ground
shared with lower caste cousins,
our mammal kinfolk

all eat, drink, scratch, play,
carnal needs frustrate, delight,
all pee, poop, nest, sleep

our tribe hides in clothes,
boasting pompous pretensions
of upper caste rank

all feel pain, fear, love
their emotions mirror ours,
yet we torture them

may kindness bridge caste,
phylum's godless humanists
live the Golden Rule



Given that natural selection is an immutable feature of speciation, carnivores must be granted a waiver from the Golden Rule. Human omnivores, uniquely, have a moral choice. Many non-vegans, such as the author, lamely lament that our food animals are treated so tortuously.