



A Little Higher Than the Demons

by Eric Holmberg

Recently I was discussing a section of the script for "Is Gay OK?" – a documentary I have been working on for the last couple of years. I had run it by a friend, an expert in the LGBTQ movement. He took slight exception to a parenthetical phrase that occurred at the end of a comment made by one of

the interviewees:

Now there's no question that humans have engaged in homosexual acts – meaning erotic and/or romantic behavior with persons of the same gender – since the dawn of recorded history. But normally it has just been just one manifestation of the diverse sexual interests humans appear capable of... *far more than any other creature I might add.*

He wondered if that was completely accurate given the proclivity, for example, of the black widow spider to eat her mate after copulation.

The phrase will remain in the screenplay for a number of reasons. First, cannibalism among black widow spiders (actually the same phenomenon has been noted among other varieties of spiders as well) has virtually nothing to do with sexual/erotic behavior. Furthermore, it is the only sexually-related anomaly we know of concerning spiders. Third, as we observe other species that reproduce sexually through a male/female pair, the levels of erotic diversity – by which I mean aberrations from an ideal reproductive "norm" – actually are pretty limited.



Yes, homosexual activity has been observed among certain animals, an obvious dead-end if babies are the objective. But it is important to note that this rarely, if ever, takes on the status of an "orientation" or an "identity," as in "Fluffy is a homosexual dog." Same-sex behavior can be engaged in to establish dominance or simply because it feels good, all friction being the same when you're rutting and not too discriminating. And animals, some more than others, can be notoriously indiscriminate. (e.g. the same Fluffy when he tries to "hump" some unfortunate person's leg.) And, with extremely rare exceptions, when a suitable member of the opposite sex becomes available, every one of these creatures who "had a walk on the wild side" are back



to doing it the way "the birds and bees do it." In other words, a homosexual orientation or identity as it has come to be defined over the last 150 years among humans is nearly unheard of among non-human species.

What else do we have as far as sexual diversity in the animal world? While a few species seem to mate for life, the vast majority would be considered "promiscuous" – an admittedly absurd value-laden label when applied to non-human animals. Incest also isn't an issue for many animals. Some of them masturbate. Pedophilia can take place, though is very rare because most animals respond to the appropriate signals from their potential mate, signals that would imply sexual maturity and which can occur at a very early age. (Once again, though, as with same-sex behavior, it is rarely, if ever, a preference or orientation. It often takes place for non-sexual reasons. And it disappears if a suitable, mature and opposite-sex mate becomes available.) And lastly, cross-species sex has been observed among some animals.



That pretty well does it as far as erotic diversity is concerned among soulish animals. And keep in mind that many species will only engage in some, not all, of these relatively few, less than optimal (reproductively speaking) variations.

When we turn our attention to *homo sapiens*, however, the list includes not only all the above but virtually hundreds of other aberrations, some so bestial as to exhaust the word of its intended meaning. (There are dozens of things that humans do erotically that would never occur to "brute beasts.") I won't take the time or defile the reader by listing some of them except to say that even the black widow example my friend raised – eating the flesh of one's sex partner – has occurred in our species. The big difference with man, though, is the act has nothing to do with a mere instinctive desire to acquire calories by eating a smaller, vulnerable creature. And it actually can have an erotic component.



My research for this project has forced me to address the seemingly infinite capacity of some humans to take a simple, beautiful, and vital act like sex and turn it into an almost endless chamber of horrors. I naturally asked God, "Why?"

The answer came as it should for Christians who view the triune God and the scriptures as the ultimate source of truth. The passage in Hebrews concerning the essence and purpose of man flashed into my mind:

You (God) made him (man) for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor. Hebrews 2:7

Man was created as the crown of God's creation. He was to be His vice-regent in the earth; serving as high priest in the temple of this blue-green world. As the only creature with the "breath" (the *ruach* (Heb.) or spirit) of God animating his person (Gen. 2:7), man was distinctly "other" and higher than all the other animals. He was called to express a loving dominion over – meaning to dress, protect and steward – all the animal species as well as the entire world. (Gen. 1:28) (This, by the way, is another reason why same-sex behavior in the animal kingdom says absolutely nothing about the supposed normalcy of homosexuality among humans. As distinctly different/higher creatures than animals, we aren't to take our cues concerning all manner of sexual and moral issues from animals. After all, some of them also eat their young or greet one another by smelling each other's rear-ends.)

As image bearers of God – "angled mirrors" as one of my favorite theologians puts it – we are called to grow in the knowledge of God, receiving and then reflecting more and more of His wisdom, glory and beauty into the earth. The Bible further promises us that a horizon point will one day be reached when Jesus will complete the task of uniting heaven and earth. And on that Day, our process of maturing and transformation will be consummated as we are resurrected and transfigured, taking on the complete image of our divine Prototype. (1 John 3:2-3) Interesting, at that point we will also go from being created "a little lower than the angels" to actually sitting in judgment over them (1 Cor. 6:3).



But as Newton told us, for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. Sin disconnected us from God. It turned our mirrors away from the Light and redirected them towards the dark abyss that is the fallen, human heart. And left to itself, unchecked by the grace and truth that ever lives to draw us back to the Father, that darkness can grow, reflecting and feeding back on itself, getting us to do, and then practice and then *finally normalize* those thoughts and actions born from the abyss. (See Rom. 1:18-32; noting 32b: "...*they not only do them but give approval to those who*

practice them.")

The result? We can go from being a little lower than the angels, *to being just a little higher than the demons*. And at that point, to quote one of the prophets of the abyss: "Nothing is true, everything is permitted."

There may be no better dictum to describe this last and final stage of the sexual revolution: not just doing anything our twisted libidos can devise, but permitting and even *approving* them.