

## **Fair-Minded**

by Doan Thuy Duong

I'm a happy girl. I grew up in the love of my parents, family, and the whole society. Why? Because I am a girl, given priority to everything, my parents are also considered rich and have footholds in society. Every year, I receive a lot of gifts and love from people around me. I still enjoy it, until I realize how many people are still struggling with hunger and cold. People always say that fairness is what the world is all about. So why does injustice happen from the smallest things?

Pork and Dog meat...

Pork consumption is widely accepted and deeply ingrained in many cultures, including Western societies. It is a staple in various cuisines and plays an integral role in traditional celebrations and family meals. In contrast, the consumption of dog meat is considered taboo in most of the World. Therefore, what makes that?

In many countries around the world, dogs are the top-loved animals. There is a sentence like "First woman, second child, third dog, fourth man"

In contrast, in Vietnam and other countries in the world, there is no law to protect pigs. There are only animal husbandry and veterinary requirements to ensure food hygiene and safety. It's the "Law to protect meat" to be exact. Even when I search "Dogs and Pigs" on the Internet to learn more about this topic, the results that come up are "Can dogs eat pork?", and "Is it OK to feed dogs with pork?".

But if you look at the developed countries, are animal rights better? Does a pig in the US or Sweden have a law fervently claiming the right to bathe how many times a day? Eat healthy foods and leave them completely unconscious when you kill them. There is none. Since these countries do not ban pork, the most basic right of pigs to live in developed countries is still absent.

But no matter where it is, killing a pig versus a dog, is considered very different. There's something different, between "Crime" on one side and "Production Report" on the other. Regarding the deaths of pigs and dogs in front of the media. Thousands of pigs died, our condolences to the breeder, but if it was a dog, how would we react? Why are pigs not seen as individuals, separate lives, but only as means of livelihood?

A better answer is needed to account for this systemic and billion-sense difference. I find the answers I get every day are still unsatisfactory.

Someone said, "dogs are cuter than pigs". Beautiful or ugly depends on the eyes of the beholders, many people say that the pig's sloppy gait, belly, ... is very cute. Even if pigs really aren't as lovable, does the gap between cuteness between dogs and pigs really change their outlook on life? Is it really fair to use appearance to judge a creature that has no choice but to determine its life and death?

Some people say that "Dogs are smarter than pigs". There are many studies that gradually show that pigs are the most intelligent animals after humans. And most of all, pigs have the ability to recognize themselves in the mirror. And dogs are not. This is a feature that very few animals on earth can do because it demonstrates the ability to perceive its own existence.

"Dogs are more loyal than pigs". There is no doubt that dogs are more loyal than pigs, but no pig has ever been proven to be loyal.

“Pigs are dirtier than dogs”. If I'm locked in a cage I don't even have enough room to turn around. And if I can't even get my hands on food, how long will I stand on my excrement? Studies have shown that pigs are one of the cleanest animals, if chosen they will never excrete in their place.

And even if the above notions are correct, remember that those "attributes" are created by us and normed for them. What for? To prove that a dog's life is worth more than a pig's. To say what we are doing is not wrong?

When looking into the eyes of the pigs before being killed. Panic, screaming... It's not an exaggeration to say that they want to live, and they fear death.

Do people love dogs first, and then find a reason for that love?

I give the reasons, the above argument is not criticizing or blaming, leading people to vegetarianism or asceticism, but just wants to say that "for no reason at all, this world is inherently not fair". When standing at the top of the food chain, humans will be the deciding factor in what is pet and what is food. Just like how people treat each other, once they become successful, they have the right to complain about those who are less successful than they are. But every single individual living on this earth is truly amazing. Continue to live, and continue to be excited for yourself, for your future. Each of us should become the best version of ourselves, so that no one has the right to judge us anymore.