

The Animals Are Tired

The animals are tired of humans taking up too much space. Tired of leashes and gates as tiny prisons, pollution floating in the air and water, litter that smacks them in the face, plastic cutting their throats and bursting their stomachs. They don't speak languages that humans understand so humans ignore them, talk over them, tell them to learn to speak human. Animals understand cages and humans who enjoy caging.

Is anyone surprised when swans and dolphins returned to the waterways of Venice when cloudy filth and people disappeared? Goats gallivant on London streets and attack bushes like young punks fueled by The Clash. Elephants in China brunch and nap in fields, intoxicated on peace and corncobs. The rhinos are still hunted on the continent, and how unsurprising is it that even the animals in South Africa get no reprieve with tourists bringing in money to keep the poachers at bay. Where are the rhinos' allies then?

Recall how humans take too much space, how many times white people have crowded out not-white people like animals, so we can't party, eat, sleep, drink, breathe, talk on a phone, or stand in our own living rooms. How people cannot talk

without someone interrupting or mussing your hair, or fur, with breath. Yes, animals understand humans taking up too much space better than some humans.