WHAT HAVE YOU READ TO INFORM YOUR CREATUREKIND JOURNEY?

CREATUREKIND BOARD MEMBERS RESPOND
For more than a decade, I’ve been working on the two volumes of my book, *On Animals*, which means that I have been reading very widely about where and how animals feature in biblical texts and Christian theology. The books I’m most interested in at the moment are those helping me understand better the way in which the work of CreatureKind connects with the challenges presented by Black and other liberation theologies, and theologies of disability. Christian animal advocates, together with the wider animals movement, have often taken a narrow single-issue approach that is in danger of suggesting that non-human animals are a more important concern than addressing human social justice issues, such as white supremacy, discrimination against people of colour, and growing inequality between the rich and the poor. I’m committed with CreatureKind to ensuring that we don’t make that mistake, and that, instead, we highlight the ways in which human mistreatment of animals is connected with racial oppression and global poverty. The books that have been most helpful to me in recognizing these connections are:

- Carol Adams, *The Dreaded Comparison: Human and Animal Slavery*, by Marjorie Spiegel
- *For Love of Animals: Christian Ethics, Consistent Action*, by Charles Camosy
- *Food Politics: How the Food Industry Influences Nutrition and Health*, by Marion Nestle

---

**CHRISTOPHER CARTER**

- *The Dreaded Comparison: Human and Animal Slavery*, by Marjorie Spiegel
- *For Love of Animals: Christian Ethics, Consistent Action*, by Charles Camosy
- *Food Politics: How the Food Industry Influences Nutrition and Health*, by Marion Nestle

---

**DAVID CLOUGH**

For more than a decade, I’ve been working on the two volumes of my book, *On Animals*, which means that I have been reading very widely about where and how animals feature in biblical texts and Christian theology. The books I’m most interested in at the moment are those helping me understand better the way in which the work of CreatureKind connects with the challenges presented by Black and other liberation theologies, and theologies of disability. Christian animal advocates, together with the wider animals movement, have often taken a narrow single-issue approach that is in danger of suggesting that non-human animals are a more important concern than addressing human social justice issues, such as white supremacy, discrimination against people of colour, and growing inequality between the rich and the poor. I’m committed with CreatureKind to ensuring that we don’t make that mistake, and that, instead, we highlight the ways in which human mistreatment of animals is connected with racial oppression and global poverty. The books that have been most helpful to me in recognizing these connections are:

Many books by Andrew Linzey, and *Laudato Si'*, an encyclical by Pope Francis on our interconnectedness, interdependence and interrelationships with all of creation.

I will be honest; I have read a couple of books on vegetarianism. But the main text for me has been the Bible. The Bible has shaped my belief in the sanctity of all lives (animals and humans).

I've done a lot of reading, including books by Matthew Scully, Andrew Linzey, our own Sarah Withrow King and David Clough, Charles Camosy, Humphrey Primatt, John Wesley, Jonathan Balcombe, Marc Bekoff, Carl Safina, Amy Hatkoff, Wayne Pacelle, Gene Baur, and Philip Lymbery and Isabel Oakenshott. (Seriously, I kept a blog on animals and theology for a few years called "Dominion In The Image of God." There’s a reference page there with many books. I’ve read them all and more.) Most influential were probably Scully’s *Dominion: The Power of Man, the Suffering of Animals, and the Call to Mercy*, and Clough’s *On Animals*, but some of Linzey’s work and several books on animal sentience have been very important for me too.
My reading journey into animal consciousness began with powerful classics by feminist vegan critic Carol J. Adams (The Sexual Politics of Meat), theologian Andrew Linzey (Christianity and the Rights of Animals), author and speechwriter Matthew Scully (Dominion), and philosophers Tom Regan (Empty Cages: Facing the Challenge of Animal Rights) and Peter Singer (Animal Liberation). All of these compelling classics have been formative of my journey, but Adams has been especially inspiring both for her genre-busting writerly hospitality—offering something for everyone, from vegan theory to plant-based recipes to prayers for grieving the loss of animal companions—and for her resolute insistence that veganism must be multidimensional in its understanding of oppression, attentive to the connections among the intertwined scourges of sexism, racism, speciesism, and other ills.

I have also been deeply nourished (both figuratively and literally) by the work of food justice activist, author, and chef Bryant Terry (Vegan Soul Kitchen, Afro-Vegan)—do yourself a favor and cook through his newest book, Vegetable Kingdom! Terry’s work is a feast for every faculty, from the mind, to the heart, to the gut (especially), and it transformed my understanding of the history and the future of plant-eating as a tool for social transformation.

If we’re talking about work that has expanded my vision of the kinds of beings other animals are and of the richness and preciousness of their lives, Isa Leshko (Allowed to Grow Old), Joanne McArthur (Captive), and Jonathan Balcombe (What a Fish Knows) spring immediately to mind.

In thinking specifically about my ongoing efforts to help bridge the gap between academia and daily spiritual practice, I have profited greatly from reading Christopher Carter (The Spirit of Soul Food), David Clough (On Animals, Volumes I and II), Sarah Withrow King (Vegangelical), and Michelle Loyd-Paige (“Thinking and Eating at the Same Time: Reflections of a Sistah Vegan”).

The fellow animal philosophers with whom I’ve worked most closely over the years are Andrew Chignell, Tyler Doggett, Nathan Nobis, and Megan Halteman Zwart—I drop everything to read anything they write.

Finally, when I reflect upon recent work that has taken me beyond my range of expertise in bracing ways that inspire me to continue expanding my horizons, I think of Aph Ko’s Racism as Zoological Witchcraft: A Guide to Getting Out and Steven McMullen’s Animals and the Economy.
Numerous influences have shaped me, including:

- books that moved me from thought to action, such as Jonathan Safran Foer’s book *Eating Animals*, which changed my life and led me to become vegetarian;
- books that develop and push my thought further, such as Aph and Syl Ko’s books, including *Aphro-ism: Essays on Pop Culture, Feminism, and Black Veganism*;
- Black vegans such as cookbook author and public health nutritionist Tracye McQuirter (*By Any Greens Necessary, Ageless Vegan*) and Black vegan podcaster Monique Koch of the Brown Vegan podcast;
- my own writing, such as a conference paper I presented on Michael Vick, pit bulls, dogfighting, Black suffering, and animal suffering;
- grassroots and nonprofit organizations such as the Food Empowerment Project and the AfroVegan Society, which center BIPOC experiences in vegan history, ethics, and traditions and deepen my knowledge and commitment;
- ongoing conversations with vegan, vegetarian, and omnivore friends;
- CreatureKind’s own resources, such as its Six Week Church Course;
- and Washington, D.C.’s vibrant and long-established Black vegan community.

And, of course, encounters with animals themselves have shaped me, and may be the strongest and most continuous influence of all.