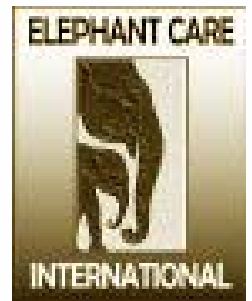


For the Elephants...



Images optimized for viewing
@ 50-75% magnification
Please scroll to view slides...





We Are Like the Elephants

- ☯ Strong in our convictions
- ☯ Long in our memories
- ☯ Loyal to our group
- ☯ Dangerous when threatened



Strength / Weakness

- ☯ These are strengths when fighting for the elephants
- ☯ And weaknesses when fighting among ourselves





We Have Many Strong Voices

- ☯ Animal Welfare Activists
- ☯ Conservationists
- ☯ Captive Elephant Managers



Botswana ©
Scotch Macacaskill
used with permission



Areas of Controversy

- ☯ Ivory sales
- ☯ Culling of elephants
- ☯ Habitat capacity
- ☯ Training methods
- ☯ Captive elephants in zoos/circuses
- ☯ Resolving human-elephant conflict



We may Disagree... but the survival of elephants is not threatened by:

- ☯ too many welfare organizations,
- ☯ too many conservationists, or
- ☯ too many zoos.





Focus

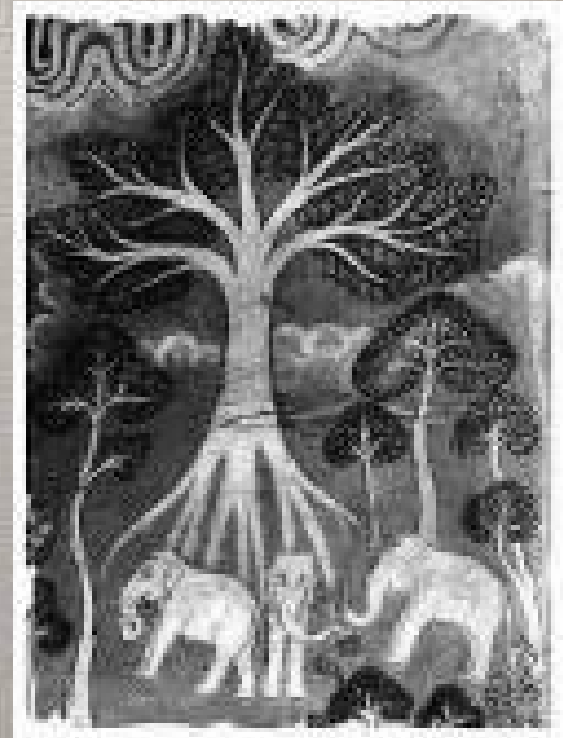
- ☯ If we focus on the costs of conflict
- ☯ ...and the gains from resolving conflict
- ☯ We can see the benefits to the elephants if we work together.



Satya

- ☯ One way to work together is to practice Satya:

A principle from an ancient language that suggests a way forward.





Satya is a Sanskrit word that loosely translates into English as *Truth*.

It is part of Hindu tradition and Yoga.

In Buddhism the principle is *Right Speech*.





Satya Principles

- ☯ One of the five yamas, or restraints...
- ☯ Language that does the least harm—and the most good.
- ☯ Slowing down, filtering, and carefully choosing our words.



Some Sources of Conflict

☯ Conflict often arises from actions that are based on:

- selective facts,
- generalizations, or
- incomplete data





"Truth" Is Personal

- ☯ People act based on their experiences, their own "truths."
- ☯ These "truths" differ from person to person





Judgments

- ☯ Personal “truths” leads to judgments:
 - that limit ourselves and others.
 - that put us into a box—and attempt to do the same to others.
- ☯ Judgments are not satya.



Laos © Philippe Coste
used with permission



"Truth"

"Evidence clearly suggests that the best environment for an elephant is the wild."

- ☯ The website of a welfare organization makes this seemingly clear statement of truth.
- ☯ Yet, is it universally "true"?





Possible Tests for "Truth"

- ☯ Is it literally true?
- ☯ Is it a judgment or a perspective?
- ☯ Is it completely true?
- ☯ Is something omitted?
- ☯ Is there adequate information to state this unequivocally?





Gandhi Approach to Truth

- ☯ Gandhi saw truth as multifaceted and unable to be grasped in its entirety by any one individual.
- ☯ *To destroy your enemy through violence is to destroy that within you that is righteous and just...*



To Find The "Truth"

- ☯ Respect the pieces of others' truths in order to pursue the greater truth
- ☯ Engage in dialogue with opponents
- ☯ Understand their viewpoint
- ☯ To be heard, be prepared to listen.



Laos © Philippe Coste
used with permission



"Evidence clearly suggests that the best environment for an elephant is the wild."



But, what if you are an elephant...

- in Vietnam, where the population declined from over 1,000 to less than 100 in 20 years
- in Kruger National Park facing culling
- in southern India where in some areas 50-90% of tuskers have been killed



The Truth is Complex

That which was "true"
at one time,
at one place,
may be less "true" at another.





Different "Truths"

Let's look at perspectives that individuals from some organizations might have.



Laos © Philippe Coste
used with permission



Zoo "Truths"

- ☯ Elephants are essential for revenues
- ☯ Elephants in zoos raise conservation awareness
- ☯ If there are no zoo elephants today; no hippos tomorrow; no zoos
- ☯ Critics use selective, incomplete, data
- ☯ Rights groups do little for animals
- ☯ It is naïve to suggest that funds spent on elephant exhibits could be diverted to conservation



Animal Welfare “Truths”

- ☯ Zoos resist change
- ☯ Elephants in zoos suffer needlessly
- ☯ Zoos use conservation as a crutch
- ☯ Zoos send the wrong message
- ☯ Conservationists are not aggressive enough—
they are run just like large corporations

Conservationist “Truths”

- ☯ If zoos just donated 1% of revenues ...
- ☯ Zoos fail to educate...
- ☯ Animal rights violence taints conservationists' efforts
- ☯ Focusing on individual rights endangers species
- ☯ Welfare organizations divert funds from conservation
- ☯ It is the habitat that matters...



A Satya Perspective

- ☯ Zoos, welfare organizations, and conservationists all have their place
- ☯ All share the potential for animal care
- ☯ We all can work together
- ☯ We all can accomplish more.



Sumatra ©
Melanie Faith Dove
used with permission



Satya (Right Speaking)

- ☯ On Zoo "Truths"
- ☯ On Animal Welfare "Truths"
- ☯ On Conservationist "Truths"





Zoos:

- ☯ May convey conservation messages
- ☯ Can provide a place for family entertainment and mutual education
- ☯ May allow a unique animal-to-person experience
- ☯ May provide funds for conservation
- ☯ May provide a setting to inspire and educate future conservationists and caretakers



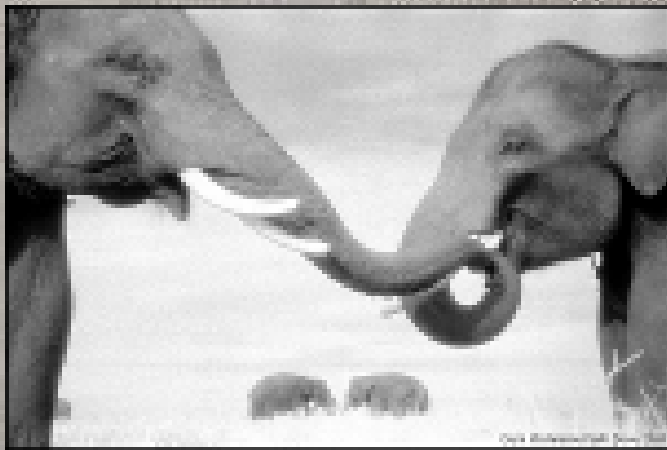
Animal Welfare Organizations:

- ☯ May remind us of the social needs of animals
- ☯ May remind us of individual animal needs
- ☯ Can police animal concerns
- ☯ Can launch effective public campaigns
- ☯ Caring people make for caring nations



Conservationists:

- ☯ May protect bio-diversity
- ☯ May protect habitat and species
- ☯ Can be watchdogs over corrupt governments
- ☯ Can work for clean air, water, and resources



Sumatra ©
Melanie Faith Dove
used with permission



For the Elephants...

- ☯ The survival of elephants is not threatened by too many zoos, too many welfare organizations, or too many conservationists.
- ☯ Elephant survival depends on fewer babies, consuming less, and caring more for our environment.





We Must Not Forget

- ☯ Elephants are part of Gaia, a living, breathing world.
- ☯ The lives of native people that live among the elephants must also be improved so that they can afford to share our love for elephants.
- ☯ We cannot save the elephants if we do not save the people.



Moving Forward

Satya provides a way to move forward together with understanding and respect;

United in our goals and recognizing that each of us has elephant interests at heart.

We must do this...



For the Elephants...

Help us spread the message of Satya...
tell a friend about this message, this site, these thoughts.

Thank you!

Comments appreciated
Email: hh@elephantcare.org

