

Law of Karma:

If you eat meat, the animal of that meat will eat you

D. Pramod*

Rajdhani College, University of Delhi, New Delhi, India

Abstract - The law of nature reminds us to be vigilant and be careful, and the law of karma says bad and good deeds always go with the soul. They are based on action and reaction theory. The history shows if there is a local disturbance either to animals or to nature, there would be self as well as global disturbances.

Is the consumption of animal products essential for humans? The impact of killing animals for consumptions and its ill effects on nature and transmission of epidemic diseases are metaphysically analyzed through the remarks of the scientific community and illustrations from Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagvad Gita and Srimad Bhagvatam presented in this paper.

Key Words: COVID19, Law of Nature, Law of Karma, Killing of Animals, Revolt actions, Passage of karma, Curse, Mode of goodness, and Vegetarian diet, etc.

1. Introduction

As per the Vedic literature, the creations of the Supreme Lord are inconceivable, mind-blowing; and the theory as well as its processes of formations is beyond the human mind. The creations are so systematic that five cosmic elements are provided for the survival of living entities, only on this earth planet. The complexity is so marvelous that the living species are independent by their own but they cannot exist by themselves without the cooperation of other species and five cosmic elements around them – earth, sky, water, air, and light.¹

The highly intellectual property is empowered only to Humans. This character is making them be more greedy, selfish, and materialistic nature leading to discarding the causer or creator.

Scientific theories and laws are based on philosophy and nature. These great conclusions are derived into the form of laws by the great philosophers and thinkers from their life experiences of their fields. All the scientific theories, inventions, and discoveries are meant for the development of nature i.e. planet earth and living entities (humans animals, insects, and plants). These are illustrated in my research article titled “All efforts are for Soul”². All the living entities have equal rights to survive, the humans being highly intellectual persons; it is their moral

responsibility to protect all living entities rather than killing and using them for eating purpose.

A large number of organizations are formed in the world for the welfare animals. However, their number is very small in comparison to non-vegetarian people in the world. As per the statistics, it seems every year 52 Billion animals are being slaughtered in the world.¹⁶ (nearly 6 million animals per hour). Only 10-15 % of the world population is vegetarianism. India being the dharmic Hindu based country only 33% population is following a vegetable diet.

History says most of the epidemic disease Ebola virus, Zika virus, Chikungunya, Plague, H1N1, Swine flu, and the present Coronavirus were caused due to the merciless of activities killing of animals for consumption of animals meat, beef, pork, and chicken, etc. These diseases are mostly originated from slaughter centers and unhygienic places from different parts of world.⁵⁻⁶ These rampant viruses have claimed millions of lives of innocent people. The epicenter of pandemic COVID19 is at Wet markets in Wuhan, China. The Wet markets are the places where all types of animal food such as bats, snakes, civets, and other

animals were sold for consumption. It is difficult to maintain the hygienic environment at such places; as result, many different species and viral insects can be found stacked on top of one another. The unhygienic conditions at slaughter centers, storing musty products, accrual, and passing of bacteria and insects are soaring. The chances of transferring viral infections from animals to humans are very high.

The Vedic scriptures say killing an animal is a crime and eating them is another double crime and it leads curse and the animals follow you as per the law of karma. The karma will determine the next birth. The victims of killing animals, harming others, and not responding to great sages are well described in scriptures as per their karma (deeds of previous births).^{3,4} There are certain things in science they are behind the human intelligence and thinking capacities to visualize the concepts of creation of the universe, creation of living entities, birth, and death of cycle, soul, super soul, karma, mind, and intelligence, etc. We will have to believe and understand them for the postulation of theories. These are analyzed metaphysically to explore further and the consequences in killing the innocent animals can be made to the general public for awareness through the scientific community and animal welfare associations.

2. Metaphysical Analysis

The metaphysics deals with all scientific fields and their merits and demerits in application to human society. The animal killing and a wide spectrum of their effects in human life in terms of their health, nature, environmental effects and society are presented below.

Is Civilization leading to Barbarism?

The more is the civilization, the more the devastations. As per the law of nature, human survival needs are up to their entitlements only. But their greediness, unethical values, and human behavior are causing destabilization of the earth's environment and ecology. The plant kingdom is so enormous that one can grow it further to suffice human needs. To have more energetic needs, it does not mean to encroach wild lands-animal kingdom, deforestation and kill the pet and wild animals for food products. Cannot humans survive without animal food? Are there no other food items that give the same nutritious and calories of energy that of meat products? The epidemic diseases are caused by the transmission of the virus from animals to

humans. Infectious diseases do not have boundaries and human races.

We claim that we are scientifically advanced, economically developed, and highly civilized. Does the advancement of human civilization mean Barbarism or Animal killing?

As per the action and reaction theory, once if we attack nature, one day it revolts and bounces back, cause uncontrollable natural calamities and viral diseases as a result human population and human developments will come to standstill. These are more powerful than the chemical war or terrorism.

Revolt Actions

"If you eat meat, the animal of that meat will eat you". It is a very metaphysical perception as well as a controversial and debatable topic for scientists as well as to the general public. This thought, written on photographs at ISKCON temple in Ahmadabad, India, had triggered me to write an article for presentation in Journals and discussions with philosophers and scientific community people.

As per Newton's 3rd law, for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. No theory, no law, and no prayer say to attack and destroy others. If the activities are not in the interest of nature or society, the bad effects do cause the self or society. The human greediness is responsible for mischief activities such as to acquire lands and attack on weaker groups for self motive reasons. It has become common practice in the world to encroach animal kingdom and kill them for the consumption of animal products. Being the less powerful and dumb, they may not be revolting directly when they are butchered, but the attacking symptoms or the pain in their souls and that hurting nature in the group of animals will hunt the attackers or humans directly or indirectly if not this present birth or maybe next births as per the law of Karma. If the problems are aggravated, the revolt reactions may be directly hit humans epidemic infections like H1N1, Swine flu and Coronavirus, etc; sometimes the reverse effect will be visible as natural calamities.

Healing Period

The ruthless destruction of plants and trees, and brutal killing of all types of animals and insects regularly for making the consumable meat products for global trading, hampered the earth environment. The slaughter centers

become unhygienic and the possibility of transmission of infectious diseases from animals to humans is very high due to the revolt actions of living species.

No system is perpetual. Every system has its break down point. It needs rest. Even seasons also change periodically. Natural or artificial mechanical systems also require time for thermal stabilizations. Nature and the human body also need time for the healing process. If a system is continuously used for extracting or making products, one day it asks for repair. Now the planet earth is closed for repairs. The whole world is lockdown for curbing COVID19. Perhaps this is nature's way of telling us to slow down the man-made activities for a certain period to enable her to regenerate. The over usage of animals and insects at wet market centers and other places in the world need to be monitored and need to change human eating habits.

Graveyard

The dead bodies of humans and animals are generally buried or cremated in graveyard within 24 to 36 hours otherwise it emits infectious bacteria and viruses which will be harmful to the family members. The meat, flesh, and bones are supposed to be in the graveyard, but they are found in slaughter centers or wet markets. The meat-eaters are buying and storing the contagious meat, pork, etc, in the house that too in refrigerators, and then cooking and frying them into tasteful dishes as foodstuff for eating purpose. In other words, the meat (pork, beef, lamb chicken, etc.) of the dead animals are supposed to be in the graveyard, but they are kept in the human body. In brief, the human body is treated as Graveyard.

One can imagine how the anatomy of the human body functions with foreign material. The question arises, is that extra or strange material is compatible with the human body or not? If it is so, why the doctors advise patients to take a vegetarian diet during the sick or old age period? The general tendency in the world is that people stop taking non-vegetarian stuff only if they are advised by the doctors.

The scientific, as well as non-vegetarian community, argue that no harm in consuming meat and has no side effects and it contains high proteins as described by the science, whereas vegetarian people counter attack saying

- a) Are these animals and reptiles meant for only human eaters and cannot we use them for any positive work in society?
- b) Cannot we survive without animal food?
- c) Why not the agro products give the same amount of nutritious or calories to that of animals?
- d) Why are the frequent epidemic diseases occurring in the world?

These are real threats in the present global scenario like biological war. One should not kill animals and should not consume them as they are also living creatures. The butchers have no moral and ethical values. Animals are being targeted because they are dumb and less powerful than humans. Even they do cry, shed tears, and have pain while being tortured. But it is beyond the scope of the human brain to decode and understand their sufferings.

COVID Observations

The scientists suspect the Coronavirus is passed from animals to humans as some of the earlier infections were caused due to the transmission of the virus from animals to humans in Wuhan city.⁵⁻⁷

The historians say that the 1918 flu which infected over a quarter of the world population and killed 50 million people is caused by the H1N1 virus originated from Kansas chicken form and again the H1N1 epidemic in the USA and Mexico due to pig populations.

Ed Winter,^{5,6} British animal activists known as Earthling Ed says Covid19 was caused by eating animals. The viruses and diseases such as Avian flu, Ebola, HIV, Swine Flu, SARS, etc are caused by infections from animals. He further says the diseases are caused due to the exploitation of animals and start encroaching, farming wildlands for own business. He also claims that the human's risk factor can be minimized if one goes for a vegetarian.

Dr Stephen Felt^{6,7} a professor of comparative medicine at Stanford University Medical Center says that more foodborne parasitic diseases occur by consuming undercooked or raw pork.

Homayoon Farzadegan^{6,7} a professor at the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University says "The animal to human diseases rises if one stays nearer to the animals and consuming more animal products"

Ban on Cat and Dog meet

The Chinese Government has passed a resolution because of the Coronavirus that it had banned trade and consumption of wild animals across the country and Shenzhen city explicitly banned the eating of cats and dogs.⁸ In some of the developed countries eating of cat and dogs are banned as they are pet animals close to humans. The government says it is the spirit of human civilization. Hence, Liu Jianping, an official from Shenzhen center for Disease Protection center and control said “The poultry, livestock, and seafood available to people are sufficient. There is no evidence that wild animals are more nutritious than poultry and livestock”. It shows no need of killing wild animals.⁸

Motivation for Vegetarian Diet

The research study conducted by Christopher J Hopwood, Professor at the University of California, Davis, USA reports “Most of the people are getting motivated to adopt a plant-based or Vegan diet or for three reasons health, environment, and animal rights.”⁹

Observations

- a) Why the spirituality of Hinduism and Jainism etc do not recommend animal food?
- b) Why people do not eat meat in the temples and do not visit temples after taking meat?
- c) Why people do not eat meat during festivals and other religious occasions?
- d) A lot of non-vegetarian people - philosophers, scientists, animal activists, devotees and patients who are in the path of spirituality abandoned after seeing the pathetic conditions of dumb animals when they are slaughtered.
- e) We find a lot of superstitions, but we may not find answers. However, the law of karma convinces us with examples cited in the Literature (discussed in this paper).

3. Evidences as per Scriptures

Life comes from life². The birth and death cycle continues till you reach abode. The next life depends on your karma. Karma is the result of kriya.

A kriya is an activity. A good action creates good karma as does good intent whereas bad karma does the harm so does

bad intent. The good and bad karmas go on accumulating through the birth and the death cycle is known as the law of karma. The law of karma determines your next birth. The karma depends on positive and negative activities that are controlled by a body of five Gnanendriyas and five karmendriyas) mind, intelligence, false ego, and soul. The karma passes through the soul. A soul is an identity of the body which passes from one to birth to next birth.³

The degree of merits and demerits of karma determines a higher level or lower level in this birth or next birth. If the accumulation of good deeds leads to a higher level and the bad deeds to a lower level. Thus the balance amount of karma follows to the next birth. The spiritual activities, love, care, and treating all living species equal are the best medicines to purify the karma.

The objective of Human life is to escape from birth and death cycle¹. But we are born in a materialistic world, hence bound by the material nature of three attributes - modes; i) mode of passion (satwa guna), ii) mode of passion (rajoguna) and iii) mode of ignorance (tamoguna). The literature says to get liberation one has to raise from the mode of ignorance level to the mode of passion. The misdeed activists (animal eaters and culprits) fall under the category of the mode of ignorance.^{1&3}

A few corrupt deeds and their impacts on nature and individual persons are analyzed metaphysically using classical examples mentioned in the literature. They are presented below

a) Imbalance of Nature

Any corrupt deed caused to nature may chase until it gets revenged or retaliated. Once bad deeds are dominant in society, nature becomes imbalance and may explode one day as natural calamities and epidemic diseases like the present Coronavirus, which spreads globally without any boundaries, any religion, and race. These are the consequences of the unethical behaviour of humans such as encroachment of wildland, deforestation, killing and eating of animals and insects; corruptive nature to deceive others, etc.

b) Passage of karma

In Ramayana, the Rama going to exile for 14 years was a curse given to the King by the blind parents of Shraavan Kumar. The boy had gone to a pond in getting water for

thirsty parents. King Dashrath killed him suspecting it was deer drinking water. When his parents came to know, they put a curse on the king before dying as “O king the way we are suffering for the loss our son, one day you shall also die in the same manner grieving for your son.” Thus king Dashrath had to die in lamenting for his son Rama, similar to that of blind parents. Hence we say the misdeed hit back to him.^{10,11}

c) Death of Bhishma

In the Mahabharata war, Bhishma and Arjuna were fighting ferociously. Arjuna shot arrows continuously, they pierced through his body, as a result, Bhishma fell as a whole body, like lying on the bed of arrows. He was still alive; as he was blessed with – “Iccha maran”- (can’t die until he wishes). During the discussions, he asked Krishna why there was so much pain and why there were so many arrows on his body. Krishna asked him to recall his past life sins, but he was unable to recollect. But Krishna remembered all and said “ *In your last 67 lives ago, during young age, while playing with your friends you saw a chameleon which was passing across the road, you then tried to kill it with a sharp stick and hit many times on its entire body and thrown on a tree which sharp sticks. Now the same sin (bad karma) has followed.* ”¹³

Thus whatever the sin we do, we will have to pay back either in the current life or other. No option to escape from it.

d) Gajendra and Crocodile

As per Srimad Bhagavatam (Canto 8.4), there was a king on the Gandharva planet known as King Huhu was taking bath in a river while enjoying, he pulled the leg of a Devala Rishi, who was also taking bath, the sage was very angry, cursed him saying “ You would be born as a crocodile in the next birth/ Thus he was taken birth as crocodile and similarly another king named Indradyamna while he was in meditation, he could not pay attention to sage Agastya, so the sage became very angry and cursed him saying “ you will be born as a dull, dumb body of an elephant in the next birth”. When the great elephant Gajendra was dangerously attacked in caught by the crocodile, the elephant remembered previous life pious activities of the Supreme Lord, thus he got liberated and became a close associate of the supreme Lord in his abode.

It is known as the famous “Gajendra moksha” in Srimad Bhagavatham.¹⁷ Thus living entities take birth as well as liberated as per their karma.

e) Snake Curse (Naga Dosham)

In Hindu customs, some people believe killing a snake is a sin. The snake curse¹⁴⁻¹⁵ is agony in the present life arising due to bad deeds in a past life. It may be due to the killing snake, assisting or witnessing it, or doing nothing to stop the snake from being killed. Even some get curse for destroying a snake habitat or home for the construction of houses or offices for any purpose. The curse may be effective in this birth or next. This is generally explained by astrologers. To mitigate the snake curse, affected persons visit temples and perform rituals.

f) Killing of animals

Killing animals (Euthanasia) and eating of animals meat is also considered to be bad deeds or unethical activity, which leads to a curse. It leads to bad karma. Not only killing but participating or witnessing people are also cursed. But the degree of punishment is different and depends on the type of involvement. Thus we say karma is different for different people. The animals also living species, they are part and parcel of the supreme Lord. It is like- if a family member in a house is murdered for any reason, either present members in this life or grandchildren may take revenge incoming births.

Once in Delhi, a monkey was killed accidentally by a truck driver. Suddenly nearly hundreds of monkeys joined and wounded all people and then took away the dead monkey in a procession. The traffic was interrupted and the incident continued for nearly two hours on the main road.

The purpose of illustrating the incidents is to convey that the animals and insects have unity. Knowingly or unknowingly if once animals or insects are killed, they continue to chase and take revenge on attackers either in this life period or next. The impact of karma may be in any form to the actual doer or maybe to the whole community living in the same country or whole world. It may be either a direct attack or in the form of infection through epidemics.¹⁰⁻¹⁵

6) Conclusion

We, the living species are under the control of the law of nature and law Karma. They run on the basic action and reaction theory. Nature and ecology are imbalanced by our unethical activities for self goals. The mischief activities (encroachment of wildlands and killing animals) chase and torture us and may take lives through any mode as natural calamities and epidemic infections. These global ill effects are visible from the past literature as well as the present scenario of pandemic Coronavirus (COVID19). Thus one

should alien with nature and living species, without harming anyone as they (animals, etc.) are part and parcel of earth planet, and even they have equal rights to survive^{6-9,16}. Thus to be in a healthy environment one has to be in a mode of goodness as a vegetarian.

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