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The Routledge Handbook of Religion and Animal Ethn

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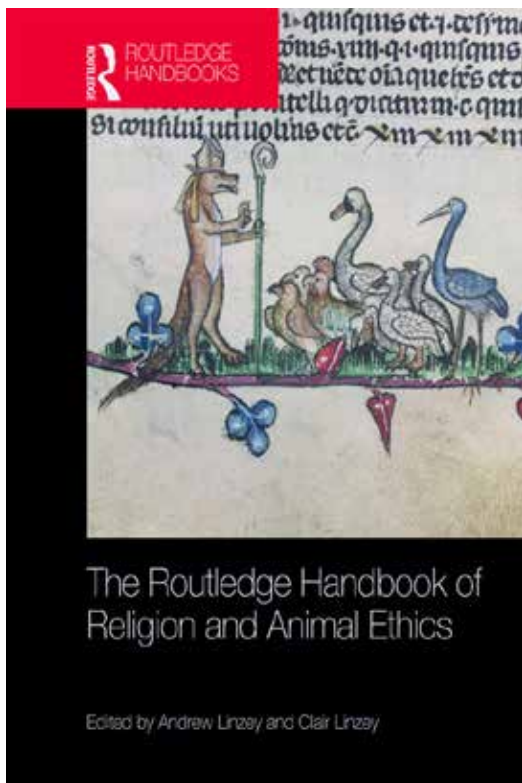
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The Routledge Handbook of Religion and Animal Ethics

Edited by Andrew Linzey and Clair Linzey

Routledge Handbooks in Religion.

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The ethical consideration and treatment of non-human animals (a term used by the book's authors) is, especially nowadays, an important issue that is directly related to the way people treats natural environment. The religious beliefs of each person influence and very often determine his attitude towards life itself, other living beings and nature. What is the role that the Creator gave to human? Is the sovereign, the administrator or his is equal to every living creature? The answers to these questions also determine the way humans share the planet with other creatures. These are exactly the issues that this book deals with, examining in particular the role that religion plays in shaping animal morality.

The book consists of thirty-five chapters, written by reputable contributors, and is divided into two parts. The first part gives a general overview to the position of the major religions on issues related to animal ethics and animal protection. Through a colorful mosaic of fifteen different religions, and even more variations of them, from Africa, America, Asia and Europe, the reader has the opportunity to “travel” to the different approaches, from the anthropocentric approach of Western religions to the Hindu approach and the theory of yoga.

The second part consists of five sections dealing with topics/questions of particular interest such as human interaction with animals, the killing and exploitation of animals, religious and secular law, evil and theodicy, as well as souls and afterlife. For these issues, comparative presentations and analyzes are made between the different religions, describing at the same time the modern trends that are being formed. Particular interest is given to issues related to the use of animals for food as well as to the philosophy of vegetarianism.

Ultimately, this book demonstrates that religious traditions, despite their usually anthropocentric character, have much to offer those seeking a framework for a more enlightened relationship between humans and non-human animals. That is why this book is considered important for students and researchers dealing with animal theology and ethics, as well as those who study the philosophy of religion and ethics in general.

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